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Situation Report

Humanitarian Crisis in Palestine

Country:	Palestine ▾
Emergency type:	Conflict ▾
Start Date of Crisis:	Oct 7, 2023
Date Issued:	Jan 6, 2025
Covering Period:	Dec 1, 2024 to Dec 31, 2024
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KEY FIGURES

 46,640 Fatalities ¹ 45,805 in Gaza 835 in West Bank	 115,564 Injuries ¹ 109,064 in Gaza 6,500 in West Bank	 ~1.9M Internally displaced ² 1.9M in Gaza (90% of population) 6,810 in West Bank	 1.36M+ Women of reproductive age ³ 545,000+ in Gaza 820,000+ in West Bank	 123,000 Estimated pregnant women ³ 50,000 in Gaza 73,000 in West Bank
 12,000+ Expected deliveries in the next month ³ 4,000 in Gaza 8,000 in West Bank	 48,000+ Pregnant women ³ experiencing emergency and catastrophic food insecurity in Gaza ~8,000 IPC Phase 5 ~40,000 IPC Phase 4	 17 of 36 Hospitals in Gaza ² partially functional	 51 of 137 Primary health care centres in the Gaza Strip ² are partially functional	 1.2M Youth aged 18-29 ⁴ 470,000 in Gaza 730,000 in West Bank

¹ Palestinian Ministry of Health - 05 Jan 2024

² OCHA Reported Impact Snapshot - Gaza Strip - 31 December 2024

³ MISP calculation

⁴ Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza deepens**, with over 45,000 killed, more than 100,000 injured, and nearly the entire population displaced, many multiple times. Women and children account for 70% of casualties, and over 70% of infrastructure has been destroyed.
- **Humanitarian access remains severely restricted.** In December, less than 30 per cent of planned aid movements were facilitated, with none permitted into North Gaza. 46 UNFPA trucks carrying essential reproductive health supplies and life-saving items have been stalled at the border for months.
- **The health sector in Gaza is being systematically dismantled.** Kamal Adwan Hospital was severely damaged in a December raid, and heavy bombardment on the Indonesian Hospital in Beit Lahia has rendered it non-functional. Al-Awda Hospital in Jabalia, the last remaining facility in North Gaza, is on the brink of collapse, struggling to provide care amid ongoing hostilities, depleted supplies, and critical shortages of life-saving medicines. Recent reports indicate that it, too, has been ordered to evacuate, leaving the area without any operational hospitals.
- **Famine-like conditions are escalating**, with 345,000 people, including 8,000 pregnant women, facing IPC 5 levels of food insecurity. Malnutrition among children and pregnant women continues to worsen, driving up rates of preterm births and neonatal complications. Approximately 10% of babies are born preterm or with low birth weight, and over half of pregnant women suffer from anemia.
- **Gender-based violence (GBV) is surging**, particularly among displaced women and girls living in overcrowded and poorly lit shelters. The lack of privacy, hygiene facilities, and menstrual supplies exacerbates risks and further undermines safety and dignity.
- **In the West Bank, escalating violence and demolitions have displaced thousands.** In December, a record 78 people forcibly evicted in a single day in East Jerusalem, the highest number since October 2023. Curfews and movement restrictions continue to impede access to livelihoods and essential services.
- **UNFPA reached over 76,250 people in December:** Over 16,500 people accessed life-saving sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services; 51,000 individuals accessed protection services; and 8,750 adolescents and youth benefited from education, mental health, and recreational initiatives.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

- For over two months, North Gaza has endured a near-total siege, with humanitarian aid largely denied, particularly in Beit Lahia, Beit Hanoun, and parts of Jabalya. Despite evacuation zones, Israeli airstrikes on densely populated areas continue unabated, causing further destruction and death. Overcrowding in South Gaza has created dire living conditions, exacerbated by winter rains and freezing temperatures, forcing families to live in makeshift shelters on the rubble of their destroyed homes, at risk of collapse.
- Healthcare access remains critical, especially for women, who face delays and inadequate care due to shortages of diagnostic tests and essential treatments. With only 17 of 36 hospitals partially functional and the rest severely damaged or destroyed, SRH services are extremely limited. UNFPA relies on mobile SRH teams, including midwives, to provide individualized services through home and shelter visits, particularly in the North.
- Attacks on schools sheltering displaced people are increasing, with nine incidents reported in December alone. Since October, 61 of 95 attacks on school buildings have been concentrated in North Gaza. Schools, hospitals, and civilian infrastructure across Gaza have been reduced to rubble, leaving civilians without safe refuge.

- Famine-like conditions are worsening in Gaza, with 90% of the population facing food insecurity. Pregnant women and children are disproportionately affected by malnutrition, increasing risks of preterm births, developmental issues, and stillbirths. Humanitarian organizations are struggling to meet rising shelter needs amid recurrent displacement, soaring prices for winter supplies, and limited goods entering the region. The ongoing violence and shortages have created an unlivable environment for millions, heightening the threat of famine across Gaza.
- GBV is escalating in Gaza. Women and girls face increased risks of violence, exploitation, and health issues, worsened by the lack of hygiene facilities, menstrual products, and safe spaces, and hygiene-related infections are on the rise. Displaced women are especially at risk, as attacks on schools, shelters, and aid distribution points further threaten their safety and dignity.
- [Adolescents and youth are disproportionately affected by the ongoing crisis](#). Over 625,000 students are unable to access education due to school destruction, displacement, and attacks on learning facilities. Youth are also facing severe mental health challenges, with most reporting feelings of hopelessness and insecurity as they confront a future marked by violence, hunger, and displacement.
- Extreme insecurity, attacks on convoys, and restricted access severely hinder humanitarian aid operations. Despite rising needs less than 1/3 of planned aid movements were able to proceed, while attacks on humanitarian infrastructure and personnel continued. The ongoing violence has made Gaza unsafe for both civilians and aid workers, with over 359 humanitarian workers killed.
- The West Bank faces escalating violence including intra-Palestinian clashes involving Palestinian forces, alongside rising settler violence and increasing displacement. In 2024, nearly 4,250 Palestinians were displaced, 1,760 structures demolished, and around 1,400 settler attacks reported – the highest levels in nearly two decades. The dire humanitarian situation is further exacerbated by worsening economic conditions, rising poverty and unemployment, movement and access restrictions, and freeze on tax revenues owed to the Palestinian Authority.

UNFPA RESPONSE

In December 2024, UNFPA delivered vital SRH and GBV prevention, mitigation, and response services across Gaza and the West Bank.

- Over **16,500 people** received SRH services, including essential medical supplies, clean delivery kits for health facilities, and postpartum kits for new mothers. Additionally, emergency obstetric and newborn care was expanded at key facilities. 12 hospitals, including six UNFPA-provided containerized health units, are delivering maternal services in Gaza. These containerized units, integrated within larger field hospitals, are addressing gaps in maternal health care in displacement camps, including the provision of emergency obstetric care. UNFPA-supported primary health care services provided family planning, antenatal/postnatal care, sexually transmitted infection management, and gynecological consultations.
- GBV prevention and response efforts reached over **51,000 individuals** through safe spaces, [cash assistance](#), and dignity kits.
- Over **8,750 adolescents and youth** were supported through education, mental health and recreational programmes, and remote counseling services.

RESULTS SNAPSHOTS



16,500
People reached with **SRH services**












70
Health facilities (*primary health care, medical points, field hospitals, and hospitals*) supported












51,000
People reached with **GBV prevention, mitigation, and response activities**



12
Women and girls' safe spaces supported

Gaza Strip		
	7	Inter-agency reproductive health kits provided to service delivery points across northern, central, and southern Gaza, supporting 1,240 deliveries and SRH services for three months.
	15	Bakri balloons delivered to manage postpartum haemorrhage.
	6	Containerized maternal health units provided basic and comprehensive emergency obstetric and neonatal care in the Middle Area and Khan Younis, supporting over 2,000 safe deliveries.
	1,000	Postpartum kits , containing essential hygiene and care items for mothers and newborns, distributed to new mothers in shelters and at hospitals.
	12	Midwives from UNRWA and Al Awda trained on urgent delivery and neonatal resuscitation.
	6	Women and girls' safe spaces reached 9,000 women and girls with GBV risk mitigation, prevention, and response services, including mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), case management, and information sessions in southern and central Gaza.
	20	GBV Risk Mitigation Taskforce members trained on creating women-community safety plans.
	1,248	Dignity kits distributed to women and girls, containing menstrual pads and essential hygiene items.
	5,202	Hygiene kits distributed to frontline professionals, including health and social workers, and youth volunteers .

	27,600	Women and girls received a two-month supply of menstrual pads, totaling 771,840 pads.
	5,200	Adolescents, youth, and women were reached through youth-led initiatives, including informal education in temporary learning spaces, psychological first aid, training on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, and hygiene awareness sessions.
	1,705	Youth received psychosocial first aid through the Shubak Al Shabab helpline and the Mostashari application .
West Bank		
	91	Inter-agency reproductive health kits provided to the Ministry of Health (MoH), UNRWA, and the Palestinian Medical Relief Society to support emergency centres for women, including pregnant women, unable to access health facilities, supporting over 12,000 SRH services.
	7	Transport incubators delivered to MoH hospitals.
	6	Mobile health teams in Area C supported integrated SRH and GBV services, including one clinic for breast cancer screening.
	6	Women and girls' safe spaces reached 8,000 women and girls with GBV risk mitigation, prevention, and response services, including MHPSS, case management, and information sessions.
	172	Women supported through humanitarian cash and voucher assistance to address urgent needs and reduce vulnerability
	1,843	Adolescents and youth supported through youth-friendly health services, psychosocial support, awareness sessions on health and hygiene, protection from sexual exploitation and abuse and community resilience-based activities led by supported youth local councils, the Youth Advisory Panel (YAP) and the Youth Peer Education Network (Y-PEER).



COORDINATION MECHANISMS

Gender-Based Violence:

UNFPA leads and coordinates the GBV Area of Responsibility (AoR), overseeing sub-national clusters in Gaza and the West Bank. In Gazam, the GBV AoR comprises 51 members from women-led organizations (WLOs), UN agencies, and national and international NGOs. During the reporting period, the AoR updated GBV service mapping and referral focal points. A training session equipped 20 members of the GBV Risk Mitigation Taskforce to develop women-community safety plans. SOPs for the GBV National Referral System were updated and shared with all partners. In collaboration with the Protection Cluster and Child Protection AoR, the GBV AoR produced [an advocacy paper highlighting violence and risks faced by women and girls at distribution points](#). Additionally, the GBV AoR Case Management Taskforce conducted a workshop to review GBV classification and the incident recorder used in the newly launched monthly GBV Trends monitoring. This exercise clarified definitions and is expected to improve the accuracy of future trend analyses.

Sexual and Reproductive Health:

UNFPA leads the Sexual and Reproductive Health Technical Working Group (SRHWG) within the Health Cluster, advocating for SRH priorities and coordinating interagency responses. During the reporting period, key efforts included conducting weekly Health Cluster meetings and revising the SRH outpatient mapping, which identified 150 facilities. A presence and gaps analysis is planned to build on this mapping.

Adolescents and Youth

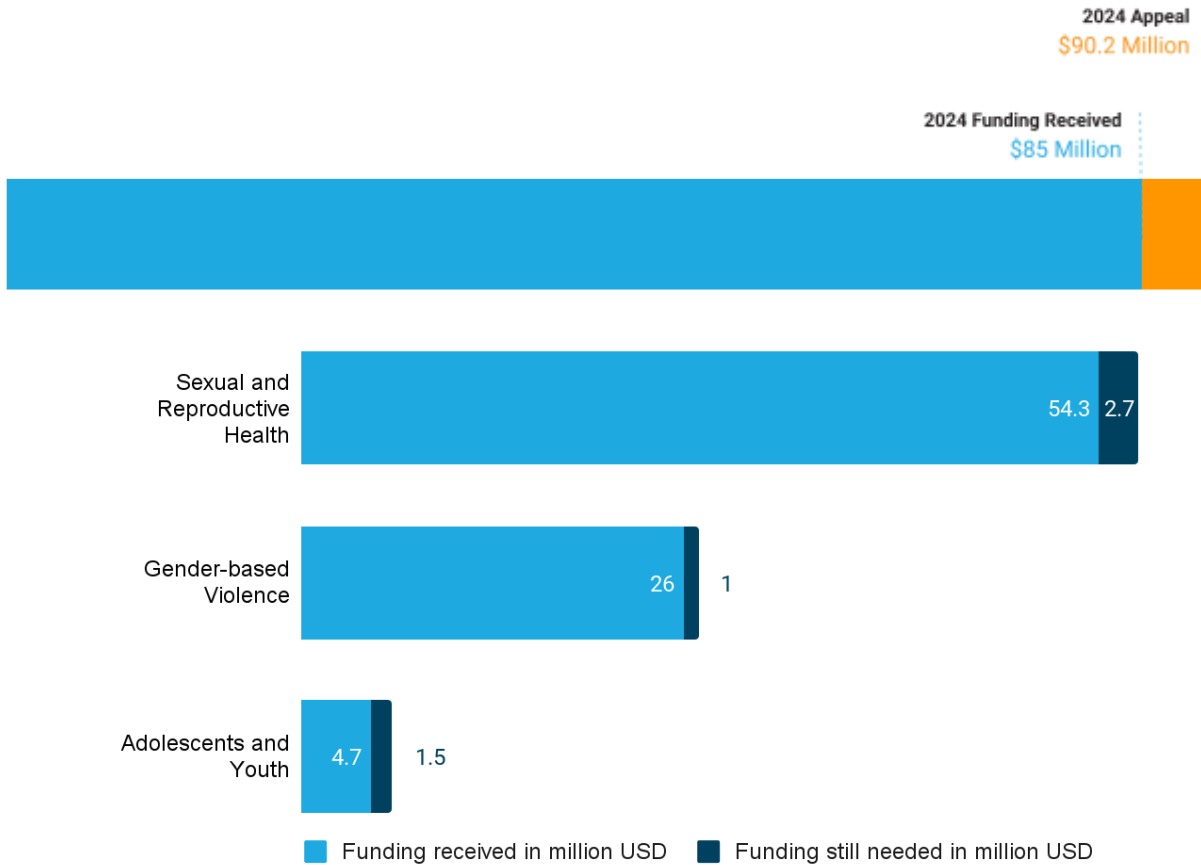
UNFPA leads adolescent and youth health emergency response and advocacy efforts through the Palestinian Adolescent Health Coalition and the United Nations Youth Group, working to ensure that the needs and voices of young people are integrated into the broader humanitarian response. During the reporting period, UNFPA launched [a virtual exhibition](#) that spotlighted compelling stories of resilience and creativity from Palestinian youth. The exhibition celebrated their active and vital contributions to humanitarian efforts, showcasing their leadership in addressing challenges and fostering hope amid the ongoing crisis.

Other working groups

UNFPA leads the Mobile Clinic Working Group, [redirecting services to vulnerable locations in the West Bank to address accessibility challenges](#). Additionally, UNFPA actively participates in the Gaza and West Bank Cash Working Groups and the Gaza Multipurpose Cash Assistance Group.

FUNDING STATUS

As part of the 2024 Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) Flash Appeal, UNFPA requested **\$90.2 million** for its operational response. **\$85 million** of this amount has been received by December 2024, leaving a critical funding gap of **\$5.2 million**. For 2025, UNFPA is requesting **\$99.2 million** under the 2025 OPT Flash Appeal to address ongoing and emerging needs in both Gaza and the West Bank.



We extend our heartfelt appreciation to all our partners and supporters whose contributions have been instrumental in facilitating UNFPA's humanitarian response, particularly in assisting Palestinian women, girls, and youth.

