

# CRISIS IN PALESTINE

## UNFPA Palestine Situation Report

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### KEY DATA



**11,250**

**Fatalities\***

11,078 in Gaza, 68% being children and women

172 in West Bank, 27% being children



**1.34M**

**Women of reproductive age in Gaza\*\***

541,567 in Gaza

797,097 in West Bank



**30,076**

**Injuries\***

27,490 in Gaza

2,586 in West Bank



**5,522**

**Expected deliveries in the next month\*\***

5,522 in Gaza

8,127 in West Bank



**~1.6M**

**Internally displaced\***

1.6M in Gaza (70% of Gaza)

1,149 in West Bank



**1/2** of the hospitals and nearly **2/3** of primary health care **shut down\***

\*OCHA Flash Update #37 - 12 Nov 2023

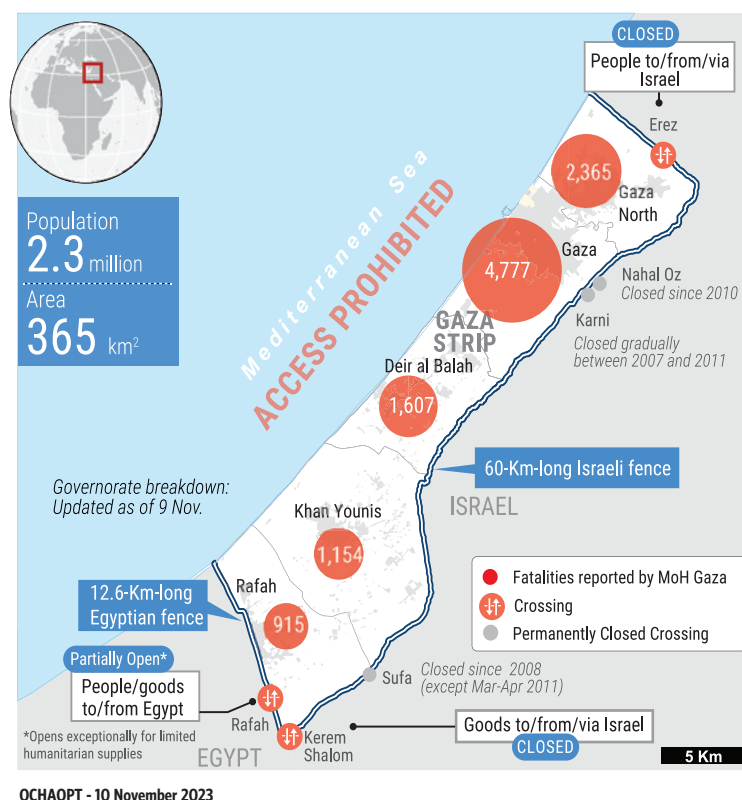
\*\*MISP calculation

# SITUATION OVERVIEW

The humanitarian situation in Gaza has deteriorated to a catastrophic point. Among the 11,078 fatalities reported by MOH Gaza as of 12 November, it is estimated that 68% are women and children in Gaza.

Ongoing bombardments, communication and electricity blackouts, combined with an enduring siege limit access to water, food, and hygiene have put all 2.2 million residents of Gaza in need of immediate humanitarian aid, as per the revised [Flash Appeal](#) launched on 6 November.

Nearly 1.6 million are estimated to now be internally displaced. UNRWA has opened additional shelters yet shelter capacity is overwhelmed serving 4 times their intended capacity. Worsening sanitary conditions, along with the lack of privacy and space, generate health and safety hazards particularly for the most vulnerable including adolescent girls, pregnant and postpartum women, disabled women and female headed households.



Bombardments and armed clashes around the Shifa hospital in Gaza city intensified since the afternoon of 11 November. Critical infrastructure, including the oxygen station, water tanks and a well, the cardiovascular facility, and the maternity ward, was damaged, and three nurses killed. Due to the lack of fuel to run generators, Al Quds hospital in Gaza city shut down key services on 8 November, and Al Awda hospital, one of few remaining providers of maternity services in northern Gaza, warned about an imminent closure. This will have a devastating impact on pregnant women and newborns. It is estimated that 180 expectant mothers will give birth daily in Gaza; among them, 15% will experience obstetric complication- this is over 25 women per day whose lives are at high-risk when emergency obstetric and newborn care are not available. According to WHO's latest figures, only 20 of 36 hospitals and 25 of 72 primary health care facilities are partially functional across the Gaza Strip.

Crisis continues to unfold in the West Bank with unprecedented upticks in settler violence, arrests/detentions, forced displacement, closures and movement restrictions. Since 7 October, there have been 169 Palestinian fatalities, which is already five times more than the average of 26 fatalities per month recorded during the first nine months of the year. At least 111 Palestinian households comprising 905 people, including 356 children, have been displaced amid settler violence and access restrictions. The UN has identified 500,000 people in need of urgent humanitarian assistance, as per the revised Flash Appeal. Movement restrictions continue to impede the movement of the Palestinian population to access health and social services, the movement of ambulances and the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

**“ I was under the rubble... I couldn't move... I was nine months pregnant. I had ten days left to give birth. They scanned the foetus; they found the pulse was weak and they had to do an emergency caesarean section... I named my son Sanad — it means support - because my son who was killed wanted to call him Sanad. Islam Hussein (35) ”**

# HUMANITARIAN IMPACT AND NEEDS IN GAZA

- Urgent need to ensure access for all 5,500 pregnant women who will deliver in the next 30 days in Gaza to appropriate obstetric care. Closure of hospitals, lack of fuel, supplies and hygienic conditions heightens risks for maternal and newborn morbidity and mortality.
- Pregnant and lactating women have higher daily water and caloric intake requirements. Lack of food and water across Gaza will have adverse impacts on their health and wellbeing.
- Over 690,000 menstruating women and girls have limited access to menstrual hygiene products in addition to inadequate water, hygiene and privacy. This puts them at risk of reproductive and urinary tract infections and also poses protection-related risks.
- There are approximately a half million adolescent boys and girls in Gaza whose education have been disrupted and who have experienced trauma. Adolescent girls often have particular needs for health services, protection, psychosocial support and education services that are often overlooked.
- Trauma suffered, uncertainty related to limited access to basic needs for survival, overcrowded and unhygienic living conditions put unbearable pressure on individuals and families. These stressors heighten protection concerns, especially for women and girls, who may require access to gender based violence services and support.

## UNFPA RESPONSE STRATEGY

**UNFPA is appealing for US\$ 14.1 million to implement a three month response plan aligned with the revised Flash Appeal (October- December).**

**UNFPA's Priorities in Gaza to meet the most life-saving needs include:**

- Provision of lifesaving SRH medicines, supplies and equipment to hospitals across Gaza
- Distribution of individual clean delivery kits to pregnant women to enable more hygienic birth conditions
- Supporting access to the minimum package of sexual and reproductive health services (MISP)
- Provision of dignity kits to help displaced women and girls of reproductive age throughout Gaza to maintain proper hygiene and meet their menstrual health needs
- Cash assistance to Gender-Based Violence survivors and other vulnerable women and girls (including pregnant and breastfeeding women) to manage their most essential needs

**UNFPA's Priorities in the West Bank to respond to the worsening crisis and prepare for continued deterioration include:**

- Ensure continuity of service provision and access as the situation continues to deteriorate through pre-positioning and distribution of reproductive health kits containing medical devices, drugs and supplies
- Support to Safe Motherhood Centers, decentralized and mobile service delivery to ensure improved more localized access to safe delivery and SRH services
- Continued operation of Safe Spaces across the West Bank to support vulnerable women and GBV survivors to access case management services
- Engagement with women-led organization to support localization of services and resources
- Provision of dignity kits to help the most vulnerable women and girls of reproductive age to maintain proper hygiene and meet their menstrual health needs



# UNFPA OPERATIONS TO DATE

## Gaza Strip

- On Friday, 3 of November, **2 truckloads of reproductive health kits** arrived to Gaza containing individual clean delivery kits, and pharmaceuticals, consumable medical devices and equipment for basic and comprehensive emergency obstetric care, including anesthesia and supplies for cesarean sections. Additional reproductive health supplies arrived to Egypt on 7 November and have crossed into Gaza.
- Among the kits that have recently arrived in Gaza are **8,400 individual clean delivery kits** for distribution to pregnant women in the second and third trimesters including at UNRWA shelters. These kits will enable more hygienic births.
- **3 hospitals** have been provided with reproductive health kits to enable safe deliveries including provision of basic and comprehensive emergency obstetric and newborn care and distribution to two additional hospitals is planned.
- **724 women** in Gaza have received cash transfers, these include pregnant and lactating women, breast cancer patients, survivors of gender-based violence.
- Distribution is underway of **600 postpartum kits** to women who have recently given birth including at UNRWA shelters. These include basic hygiene and care items for the new mothers and their newborns.
- **1,070 dignity kits** have been distributed to women living in UNRWA shelters.
- **50** young people provided psychosocial support to **4,400 children** living in UNRWA shelters over the first week of November.

## West Bank

- UNFPA is supporting the Ministry of Health SRH Emergency Teams in the West Bank in **mapping and supporting readiness** measures to sustain access to services so that pregnant women can continue to reach facilities safely.
- **22 inter-agency RH kits** were delivered to the MOH in Nablus on 6 November for onward distribution to hospitals. These kits provide pharmaceuticals, supplies and equipment to support normal deliveries and to ensure that facilities can provide basic and emergency obstetric and newborn care.
- UNFPA has handed over supplies of **life-saving SRH drugs** including to the MOH to ensure continuity of SRH services.
- **77 Safe Delivery Bags** were distributed to the MOH in the West Bank (50) and to the Palestine Medical Relief Society (PMRS, 27). These Safe Delivery Bags ensure that ambulances in the West Bank have necessary supplies and equipment to perform safe deliveries in ambulances due to movement restrictions and delays at checkpoints that cause delays for women to reach health facilities to give birth.
- **4 Safe Motherhood Centers** were provided with medical RH devices in the West Bank and support is planned for three additional Centers.
- UNFPA continues to provide services in **6 Safe Spaces** for women and girls in the West Bank and Jerusalem.
- UNFPA is supporting **psychosocial support** sessions for youth volunteers in refugee camps.

## Coordination

- UNFPA is an active member of the Health Cluster and co-leads the SRH Working Group. Efforts are underway to map facility functionality and service availability and to ensure strong coordination to deliver SRH services including advocacy around prioritizing appropriate medicines, supplies and equipment.
- UNFPA leads the GBV Sub-Cluster at National Level, in Gaza and in the West Bank. Efforts to reestablish GBV referral pathways in Gaza are ongoing, as well as to update mappings for the West Bank.

