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research for asylum



# Palestine (Gaza): United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)

1 August – 24 September 2024

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## Explanatory note

### Purpose of Asylos's country of origin information report on Palestine (Gaza)

In 2024, Asylos responded to the situation of stateless persons of Palestinian origin who are seeking international protection, to assist their applications, by mapping and monitoring the availability and accessibility of information published in national, regional and international sources. Firstly, Asylos consulted key country of origin information sources published in the public domain between October 2023 and September 2024. Secondly, case law and strategic litigation were reviewed. Finally, Asylos held communications and interviews with lawyers and advocates in the United Kingdom and European countries.

Recent case law and information about the on-the-ground situation evidenced an urgent need for up-to-date country of origin information on living conditions and security for use in decisions concerning the legal status of stateless persons of Palestinian origin who are seeking international protection. In particular, for persons registered with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and/or who had or are habitually residing in one of UNRWA's areas of operation. UNRWA areas of operation cover five sectors, namely in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. Asylos found that there was no publicly available compilation of accurate and up-to-date sources on protection or assistance regarding living conditions and minimum security in Gaza. Asylos produced this report to fill the gap.

### Timeframe

Asylos reviewed information from sources available between October 2023 and September 2024. This report contains sources available in the timeframe of 1 August 2024 to 24 September 2024. Within that timeframe where newer sources have the most up to date information older sources are excluded so as to capture the most accurate data. Sources published outside the timeframe are included in instances where the information is relevant to the terms of reference. All sources were last assessed on 24 September 2024.

### Terms of reference

Following consultations about ongoing litigation the terms of reference for the research and contents of this report cover: (i) the general situation in UNRWA's area(s) of operation with a specific focus on Gaza; (ii) living conditions; (iii) minimum security conditions to any stateless person of Palestinian origin; and (iiii) proof the person had his or her habitual residence.

### Disclaimer

This COI report is intended as background reference material for legal representatives and those assisting asylum seekers. The COI report should be used as a tool to help identify relevant COI. Legal representatives are welcome to submit relevant excerpts cited in this document to decision makers (including judges) to assist an asylum seeker's case. We are COI research experts and adhere to strict research principles of providing relevant, objective, transparent, timely and reliable source material. We therefore strive to include discoverable relevant information, whether or not supportive of any individual case.

**It is imperative that legal representatives and those assisting asylum seekers read the whole COI report and consider whether, having done so, the report is on balance likely to support the specific case in which it is proposed to rely upon it. Please also note that it may be appropriate for legal representatives to seek additional individualised information.**

The information cited in this document is illustrative, but not exhaustive of the information available in the public domain. It is not determinative of any individual human rights or asylum claim. Submissions should always be complemented by case-specific COI research. While we strive to be as comprehensive as possible, no amount of research can ever provide an exhaustive picture of the situation. It is therefore important to note that the absence of information should not be taken as evidence that an issue, incident or violation does not exist.



## Feedback

If you would like to suggest additional research areas or sources to include, please do share them with us. If you would like to share any feedback, please contact: [info@asylos.eu](mailto:info@asylos.eu)

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## Who we are

Asylos is a global network of volunteers providing free-of-charge Country of Origin Information (COI) research for lawyers helping people seeking international protection with their claim. Asylos works to ensure that people seeking international protection and their legal counsel have access to crucial sources and data to substantiate their claim. Asylos volunteers and staff use their research and language skills to access detailed information. More information can be found on Asylos' website [Asylos' website](#).

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## Section 1 – Background

### 1.1 Case law context

The background to this report is a case concerning a young mother and her minor daughter of Palestinian origin from Gaza, who together with her husband entered Bulgaria in 2019.

The family arrived in Bulgaria and was detained for illegally crossing the border. The family faced return to Gaza. [Foundation for Access to Rights – FAR](#) applied for international protection before the State Agency for Refugees (SAR) based on the precarious situation in the Gaza Strip, the lack of decent basic living conditions and conflict.

The applications for international protection were rejected and upheld by two court instances on the grounds that the family had not proven that they had left the Gaza Strip for fear of persecution, and that hostilities in the area did meet the level of armed conflict and indiscriminate violence.

The mother, on her behalf and on behalf of her daughter, filed a second, subsequent application, in which she argued that the entire family was registered as Palestinian refugees with United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), but that assistance had now ceased. In particular, returning the minor child would be contrary to the principle of protecting the best interests of the child. Therefore they should be granted refugee status based on Article 1D of the 1951 Refugee Convention.

The State Agency for Refugees rejected the application on the basis that:

1. The parties concerned had voluntarily renounced UNRWA's assistance by leaving its area of operation.
2. There is no reason to believe that they would not benefit from this assistance again in the event of a return to this area.
3. The general situation in the Gaza Strip did not substantiate a personal element of persecution or threat to life relevant to the grant of refugee status.

The Administrative Court – Sofia City referred the case to the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU). The Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) delivered an important judgment on 13 June 2024, which provides the legal framework for domestic decision-makers to grant stateless persons of Palestinian origin who are or have been within the area of operation of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) refugee status [in case C-563/22, see [judgment](#), ECLI:EU:C:2024:494, paragraphs 85-86 and 90].

Examination of the merits of a subsequent application must cover all the factual elements presented, including the facts already assessed in the first application [paragraph 90(1)].

The CJEU held the **protection or assistance** of the UNRWA – enjoyed by an applicant for international protection who is a stateless person of Palestinian origin – **shall be deemed to have ceased** (Article 12(1)(a) of Directive 2011/95), when, on the one hand, that authority is unable – for any reason whatsoever, including for a reason connected with the general situation in the sector of the area of operation of the said authority, in which the permanent residence of the said stateless person was – to provide that stateless person, possibly in view of his vulnerable situation, **decent living conditions** corresponding to his mission, **without being required to prove that he is specifically affected by this general situation due to circumstances inherent in his personal situation**, and on the other hand, upon return to the said sector there is a serious threat to safety, possibly given his vulnerable state. The administrative and judicial authorities are obliged to **carry out an individual assessment** of each application for international protection based on this provision within which the **age of the person may be relevant** [paragraph 90(2)].

*In particular, UNRWA assistance or protection shall be deemed to have ceased in respect of the applicant when, for whatever reason, that authority can no longer provide for any stateless person of Palestinian origin residing in the sector of the Area of Operation of that authority where that applicant was habitually resident, decent living conditions or minimum safety conditions.*

**Importance of country information:** The Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) stated ‘Article 10(3)(b) of Directive 2013/32 obliges Member States to ensure [...] updated information is obtained from various sources, such as the European Union Agency in area of asylum (EUAA) and UNHCR, as well as by the relevant international organizations for the protection of human rights, in relation to the general situation in the country of origin of the applicant or, if they are stateless, in the country of their previous habitual residence.’ [paragraph 77]

The question of whether UNRWA protection or assistance should be regarded as having ceased should be assessed: at the time when the designated stateless person has left the sector of the UNRWA area of operation in which he or she was habitually resident; at the time when the competent administrative authorities decide on his application for international protection; or at the time when the competent jurisdiction decides on any appeal against a decision rejecting that application [case C-563/22, paragraph 90(2)].

Key country of origin information or country of habitual residence questions which may assist other applicants who are in EU Member States or other countries guided by EU law:

- a. What is the general situation in UNRWA's area(s) of operation with a focus on Gaza?
- b. Are there dignified living conditions?
- c. What minimum security conditions are there for any stateless person of Palestinian origin?
- d. What information is there on the ability to prove a person had his or her habitual residence in UNRWA's area(s) of operation / is UNRWA registered?

For more background information please see Section 3 – Appendices, ["3.1 Legal context" on page 44](#) and ["3.2 United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees \(UNRWA\)" on page 48](#).

## Section 2 – Findings

### 2.1 Living conditions (degradation incompatible with human dignity)

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) entity, OCHA Occupied Palestinian Territory, published its latest report on access to essential infrastructure and services in the Gaza Strip:

“During August [2024], more than 88 per cent of the Gaza Strip remained affected by evacuation orders. Hundreds of thousands of displaced families continue to be forced to move into an area of about 47 square kilometres (approximately 13 per cent of Gaza’s total land area), which has become overcrowded and lacks essential infrastructure and services.”

Source: OCHA Occupied Palestinian Territory, [‘Humanitarian Access Snapshot – Gaza Strip | August 2024’](#), 20 September 2024

The most recent statistic on internally displaced people in Gaza, published by UNRWA, is in a source dated 23 September 2024. UNRWA reported that:

“According to the UN, at least 1.9 million people (or nine in ten people) across the Gaza Strip are internally displaced, including people who have been repeatedly displaced (some, up to 10 times or more).”

***Please note that the UN statistic cited in the source is a UN estimate and dates back to a UN source published on 4 July 2024. Therefore, the actual number of displaced people may be different to the stated 1.9 million people.***

Source: OCHA Occupied Palestinian Territory, [‘Humanitarian Access Snapshot – Gaza Strip | August 2024’](#), 20 September 2024; UN, [‘9 out of 10 people in Gaza have been displaced at least once’](#), 4 July 2024

UNICEF’s Deputy Executive Director provided the following statement after visiting Gaza in September 2024:

“Since my last visit, tons of untreated solid waste have accumulated. I spoke to children digging in huge piles of garbage. They told me they were looking for bits of paper or cartons to light fires to cook their meals with their families. I visited Geraar Al Qudua school, which was turned into a shelter. There, in the middle of the school court, the people dug a makeshift open sewage to evacuate wastewater. People and children are literally living there. With the current temperatures, these are terrible recipes for the emergence and spreading of diseases.

Source: UNICEF, [‘UNICEF Deputy Executive Director Ted Chaiban media briefing on mission to Israel, the Gaza Strip and the West Bank’](#) Opening Remarks as Delivered’, 19 September 2024

A number of international organisations have reported on the situation of rainwater, flooding, high tides, wastewater, drainage and other issues relating to water facilities:

- OCHA reports that IDPs [Internally Displaced Persons] are at risk of further displacement as the rainy season approaches, increasing flooding and high tides. Many of those displaced due to hostilities have been forced to shelter along the Mediterranean coast, where Israeli-issued evacuation orders have instructed them to go. Several municipalities across Gaza have warned of such risks.
- The Khan Younis municipality posted about the “rainwater accumulation pond located in the north of Al-Amal district — the temporary sewage treatment plants in Maharrat- the temporary rainwater accumulation dam at the end of Omar Al-Mukhtar Street known as number (5)- and all low areas) are very dangerous places. •Displaced brothers residing in those areas are requested to leave immediately and seek another place of safety, as your presence in rainwater collection ponds poses a danger to your life and safety.” “The municipality has stated that (75%) of Khan Younis road networks are completely destroyed and unusable with difficulty moving services, health

and civil defense machines to rescue citizens during low air and others. (70%) of conveyor lines and rain drainage networks equivalent to (34) km long are completely destroyed. (80%) of sewerage transmission lines, pumps and stations are completely destroyed. [...].”

- According to the municipality of Gaza and UNRWA, Sheikh Radwan Pond, designed for rainwater collection, is now accumulating over 450,000 cubic metres of wastewater, which threatens to overflow once it rains. The municipality is unable to drain water due to the damage sustained by the pond's drainage line and its facilities. Furthermore, the Khan Younis and Deir al Balah municipalities warned displaced people to move to higher ground and stay away from the shore, as high tides may lead to the drifting of their tents and other risks. Humanitarian actors on the ground have amplified these warnings by sending out mass text messages to people in the area.
- According to the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Cluster, from 1 September to 14 September 2024, 302,533 litres of fuel—just 31 per cent of the amount needed to operate numerous critical WASH facilities—were allowed in by Israeli authorities and delivered by the United Nations. Some 218,533 litres were distributed to southern Gaza, while the remaining 84,000 litres were distributed in the north. Fuel access in the north continues to be a critical challenge, as deliveries are frequently delayed or rejected by Israeli authorities at checkpoints. As a result, WASH operations have been forced to drastically reduce their operating hours to prevent complete shutdowns. Despite these persistent obstacles, on 16 September, the Palestinian Water Authority (PWA) successfully delivered and distributed 37,000 liters of fuel to sustain operations at 41 water facilities, including 37 wells and 4 sewage pumping stations, north of Wadi Gaza. This marked the first fuel supply delivery by PWA since 13 August.
- Water production is one quarter of the levels recorded before October 2023, according to WASH partners. The WASH Cluster estimates that about 70 per cent of water supplied through water networks is leaked due to damages sustained during fighting, with repairs being impeded by a combination of insecurity, lack of access and Israeli rejection of imports of spare parts. The Cluster has highlighted that restrictions on importing these essential components have left vital WASH machinery inoperable, which is destabilizing operations, particularly for severely damaged sanitation facilities. Currently, four key basins are receiving sewage, and any overflow could pose serious public health risks.
- On 18 September 2024, the Coastal Municipalities Water Utility (CMWU) reported the successful restoration of the Al Wakala well in Al Maghazi Refugee Camp in Deir Al Balah, which had been destroyed. With support from the International Committee of the Red Cross, CMWU repaired the well's pumping system, electric motor, and manifold, effectively reconnecting it to the water distribution network. In Southern Gaza “The Water Service of the Coastal Municipalities, funded by UNICEF, continues to work on establishing a water desalination station in the main water service stores in the west of Khan Younis Governorate with a production capacity of 50 m3 / hour, with the aim of supplying water centers in Khan Younis and the surrounding areas by providing a point to fill water tanks for supplying centers. [...] The project will also create and install a gallon water filling point to serve residents and displaced people in the areas adjacent to the station, where the number of users of the station is expected to reach about 60,000 displaced people.
- The Coastal Municipalities Water Utility, with funding from UNICEF, has continued [sic] to establish a water desalination plant in the main CMWU warehouses west of Khan Yunis Governorate with a production capacity of 50 m3/hour, to supply water to shelters in Khan Yunis city and surrounding areas by providing a point to fill mobile water tanks used to supply water to shelters. The project will also establish and install a water filling point for gallons to serve residents and displaced persons in areas adjacent to the desalination plant, where the number of beneficiaries from the station is expected to reach about 60,000 displaced persons.

Source: OCHA Occupied Palestinian Territory, ‘[Humanitarian Situation Update #220 | Gaza Strip](#)’, 20 September 2024; Facebook, Municipality of Gaza, ‘[Danger that threatens Baraka Sheikh Radwan and the surrounding area](#)’, 15 September 2024, Last accessed 24 September 2024; Facebook, CMWU Coastal Municipalities Water Utility, status, 23 September 2024, Last accessed 24 September 2024; Facebook, Khan Younis Municipality, ‘[A distress call issued by Khan Younis Municipality](#)’, 15 September 2024, Last accessed 24 September 2024



In a recent publication, the World Food Programme (WFO) reported on living conditions in Gaza:

“Palestinians in Gaza are crowded into an ever-shrinking space without adequate sanitation or healthcare and are repeatedly uprooted by evacuation orders that also disrupt the aid centres intended to support them, including the food distributions and community kitchens supported by the UN World Food Programme (WFP).”

“Most Palestinians in Gaza are now displaced and living in tents or make-shift huts, often in areas prone to flooding. Because of evacuation orders, they are also trying to find safety in increasingly small spaces, where basic services have collapsed, and conditions make outbreaks of disease likely.”

Source: World Food Programme, '[Food operations in Gaza face growing challenges as ongoing conflict keeps hunger needs high](#)', 26 August 2024

### 2.1.1 Accessibility and availability of humanitarian aid

Humanitarian organisations face delays and restrictions resulting in limited or no essential supplies to people in Gaza.

UNRWA published information from 20-23 September 2024, valid as of 23 September 2024 at 22:30 on “challenges” which “continue to stand in the way of collecting much needed humanitarian supplies from the Karem Abu Salem (Kerem Shalom) crossing point in southern Gaza”:

“These include deteriorating law and order, war and insecurity, damaged infrastructure, fuel shortages and access restrictions.”

Source: UNRWA, '[UNRWA Situation Report #139 on the situation in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem](#)', 23 September 2024

For organisations and individuals requiring information on materials entering Gaza via crossings, UNRWA stated that this data can be accessed through 'Gaza Supplies and Dispatch Tracking'. Please note the following disclaimer published by UNRWA:

“Current Data (after Rafah operation) [...] the supply and tracking dashboard currently records trucks entering Gaza from the 06th of May via Erez, Gate 96, JLOTS, Kerem Shalom, and Western Erez crossings, based on UNRWA data and data shared by partners. The dashboard includes partial cargo data from INGOs, other UN agencies, and the Private Sector. Data from the Private Sector, reported to UNRWA via commercial companies, cannot be independently verified at this time. Please note that retroactive data changes may apply and UNRWA will update the dashboard as the information is collected for cargo that applies to all corridors. We are unable to provide comprehensive monitoring of cargo for the following reasons: i) safety and security concerns, which continue to prevent UN staff from maintaining constant presence at Kerem Shalom, therefore severely impacting our ability to cross-reference UN cargo, and record data from INGO, Red Cross and commercial trucks, and ii) delays and/or denials in approvals for UN to retrieve, count and move UN humanitarian aid from Kerem Shalom to other parts of the Gaza Strip, which mean that we are unable to fully verify all trucks which have transited the land crossings. We will resume presentation of comprehensive data once the situation at the crossing allows.”

Source: UNRWA, '[Gaza Supplies and Dispatch Tracking](#)', Last updated by UNRWA on 23 September 2024

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) entity 'OCHA Occupied Palestinian Territory', reported that between 1 and 15 September 2024, an average of 67 humanitarian trucks entered the Gaza Strip per day. UNRWA stated that this is “well below the pre-crisis average”. OCHA recorded the “pre-crisis average per working day in 2023 was 500 truckloads, including fuel”.

Source: OCHA Occupied Palestinian Territory, '[Reported Impact Snapshot | Gaza Strip](#)', 18 September 2024 at 15:00; UNRWA, '[UNRWA Situation Report #139 on the situation in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem](#)', 23 September 2024

“The situation has worsened due to forced displacement orders issued by Israeli forces in Rafah, Khan Younis, Deir al-Balah, and North Gaza, affecting 260,000 civilians, with almost 90% of the population displaced. This has led to a severe strain on humanitarian efforts, with NGOs facing unprecedented challenges in delivering aid, compounded by restricted access, damaged infrastructure, lack of safety, and critical shortages of supplies. The forced displacement orders have compressed the population into a “humanitarian zone” that now holds 30,000–34,000 people per square kilometer, further complicating aid distribution and service delivery.”

Source: International Rescue Committee, '[Gaza Humanitarian Access Snapshot #4](#)', 19 September 2024

To meet urgent child needs stronger guarantees are required, according to UNICEF:

“We need stronger guarantees that this can happen on a regular basis to address urgent child needs such as measles vaccination, distribution of soap and other hygiene needs. The way the coordination and deconfliction mechanisms are currently working does not allow our programmes to work efficiently, and they need to be strengthened.”

Source: UNICEF, '[UNICEF Deputy Executive Director Ted Chaiban media briefing on mission to Israel, the Gaza Strip and the West Bank Opening Remarks as Delivered](#)', 19 September 2024

On 20 September 2024, UNRWA posted an ‘Official Statement’ stating that according to “Philippe Lazzarini, the UNRWA Commissioner-General as posted on his official X account (previously known as Twitter)” – “Israeli Authorities have stopped giving visas to heads and staff of the international NGO community”. The statement indicates that “humanitarian organisations and international media are prevented from doing their work properly”. There is an “ongoing entry ban of international media to report freely from inside Gaza, at a time when a number of senior UN officials are not given permission to visit Gaza [...]”.

Source: UNRWA, '[The Israeli Authorities have stopped giving visas to heads and staff of the international NGO community](#)', 20 September 2024

Human Rights Watch reported on “Israeli forces have arbitrarily detained Palestinian healthcare workers in Gaza” and the impact of this on access to healthcare:

“The detention of healthcare workers in the context of the Israeli military’s repeated attacks on hospitals in Gaza has contributed to the catastrophic degradation of the besieged territory’s healthcare system.”

Source: Human Rights Watch, '[Israel: Palestinian Healthcare Workers Tortured](#)', 26 August 2024

OCHA reported that: “The number of humanitarian missions and movements within Gaza denied access by the Israeli authorities has nearly doubled in August compared with July (105 vs. 53).”

Source: OCHA Occupied Palestinian Territory, '[Humanitarian Situation Update #215 | Gaza Strip](#)', 9 September 2024

In August 2024, a NGO Joint Statement reported that 16 orders made by Israeli forces “forcibly displaced more than 260,000 civilians” and restricted access and availability of humanitarian aid:

“At least 24 NGOs impacted. Civilians, including humanitarians, were pushed into an ever-shrinking space, unilaterally-designated by Israeli forces as a “humanitarian zone” now just 11% of Gaza.”

Source: Anera, '[Gaza Humanitarian Access Snapshot #4: 13 – 26 August 2024](#)', 28 August 2024

A report on the humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip published by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) entity ‘OCHA Occupied Palestinian Territory’ states that the month of August was the most challenging this year:

“In August, 46 per cent of coordinated humanitarian movements in Gaza were denied or impeded; making it the most challenging month for humanitarian access since January 2024.”

Source: OCHA Occupied Palestinian Territory, [‘Humanitarian Situation Update #221 | Gaza Strip’](#), 23 September 2024

The Humanitarian Coordinator for the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Mr Muhannad Hadi, released a statement on a security incident which took place on 9 September 2024 and affected a UN convoy at Al Rashid Checkpoint in Gaza. The convoy was unable to fulfil its humanitarian mission:

“a team of twelve UN staff members, whose movement was fully coordinated with Israeli Defense Forces, and whose details were shared with them in advance, were stopped on its way to North Gaza to support the third phase of the Gaza Strip-wide polio vaccination campaign. While at the checkpoint the team was informed that the IDF wanted to hold two of the UN staff members in the convoy for further questioning. The situation escalated quickly, with soldiers pointing their weapons directly towards the convoy personnel. Live shots were fired, and tanks and bulldozers approached, engaged with, and damaged UN vehicles, endangering the lives of UN staff inside the vehicles. The convoy remained held at gunpoint while senior level UN officials engaged with the Israeli Authorities to de-escalate the situation. The two staff were eventually questioned, one by one, and then released. After seven and a half hours at the checkpoint, the convoy returned to base without being able to fulfill its humanitarian mission to support the polio campaign.”

Source: OCHA Occupied Palestinian Territory, [‘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’](#), 10 September 2024

According to the same source, the situation relating to humanitarian movements and checkpoint opening times during August 2024 included:

#### *Humanitarian movements*

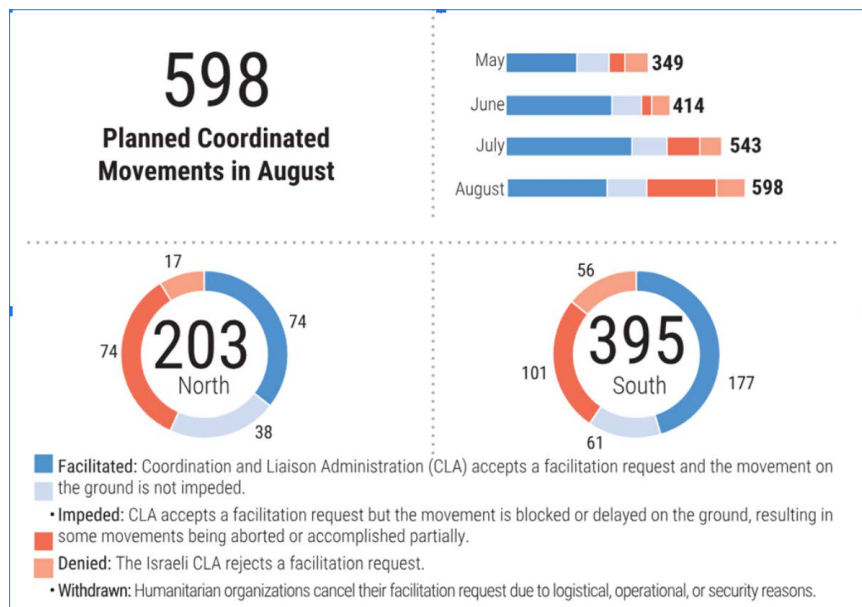
- “In August 2024, UN and its NGO partners conducted 598 coordinated humanitarian movements across the Gaza Strip: 395 in the south and 203 in the north. Of these, only 250 were facilitated, 99 impeded and 176 denied. In total, 46 per cent of humanitarian movements have been either denied or impeded in August, making it the most challenging month for humanitarian access since January 2024.
- “Humanitarian access in the northern part of the Gaza strip is significantly constrained, in part due to challenges and insecurity crossing checkpoints. Of the 203 humanitarian movements north, 74 were denied and 38 were impeded resulting in only 45 per cent of humanitarian movements to areas in the north of Wadi Gaza being facilitated in August. For example, of the nine health sector movements planned to transport over 200,000 litres of fuel to vital facilities such as hospitals, only one movement was facilitated with four being impeded and four being denied. Of the 395 coordinated humanitarian movements in the south, 176 were facilitated, 61 were impeded and 102 were denied. This includes 105 movements to Kerem Shalom to pick up vital humanitarian cargo and conduct 10 rotations of international staff in and out of Gaza. Of movements to Kerem Shalom in August – 19 impeded (including 3 staff rotations), and 11 denied.

#### *Checkpoint opening times*

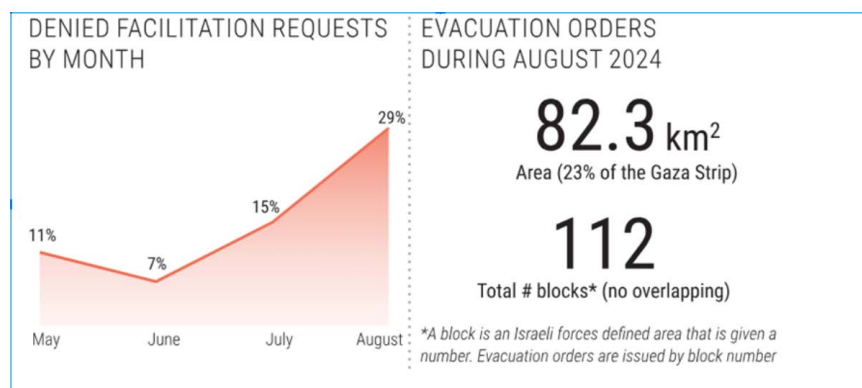
- “Since 16 August 2024, Israeli forces have imposed increasingly unpredictable and restrictive time windows for humanitarian movements through the two checkpoints between the south and north of the Gaza strip. These are only announced in the morning when convoys are ready to depart, resulting in significant delays in movements

and limiting the time that humanitarian teams have to complete their activities in Gaza city or northern Gaza. In addition to the limited operating hours, technical failures at the checkpoints have further delayed movements and compromise the safety of aid workers. For instance, on 24 August, a reportedly broken boom gate at the checkpoint caused one mission to be stuck for four hours. The delay in fixing the gate in a timely manner resulted in the failure to deliver 10,000 vaccines, 58 pallets of medicine, including cold chain items and life-saving medical supplies for pregnant women, as well as 24,000 litres of fuel. In response to concerns raised by humanitarian organizations, Israeli authorities indicated that the checkpoint would be open each day from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. However, access through the checkpoint still faces extensive delays with convoys often not allowed to approach the checkpoint until well past 10 a.m. On 28 August, a convoy delivering urgently needed fuel to hospitals was delayed for five hours before being allowed to cross the checkpoint to the north and faced an additional four hours delay on the return journey.”

The most recently published OCHA Occupied Palestinian Territory source, ‘Humanitarian Access Snapshot - Gaza Strip’, documents key figures on the humanitarian situation. Between 7 October 2023 to 31 August 2024, at least 294 humanitarian workers were killed. The capability of planned coordinated movements in August 2024 are shown below. A comparison is also shown from May through to August 2024. North covers the area in the Gaza Strip north of Wadi Gaza and south the area in the Gaza Strip south of the Wadi Gaza:



The latest publication by the OCHA Occupied Palestinian Territory shows the percentage of facilitation requests denied by month between May through to August 2024. The source also shows data on evacuation orders during August 2024:



According to the most recent OCHA publication which covers events in August 2024 and humanitarian movements, facilities and personnel:

“Humanitarian convoys are frequently required by Israeli forces to wait at holding points before approaching checkpoints, often for hours, leaving them exposed in high-risk environments. On 5 August, a convoy of two trucks delivering essential commodities to the north was attacked by crowds just 15 minutes after arriving at the holding point, resulting in the loss of all the goods intended to support vulnerable people in the north. Similarly, the movement of humanitarian goods is restricted to only one route inside Gaza from Karem Shalom, making it an easy target for criminal elements. Hygiene items such as soap, diapers and food parcels were among the humanitarian supplies that were intercepted by criminal elements before they could reach the affected communities.”

Source: OCHA Occupied Palestinian Territory, [‘Humanitarian Access Snapshot – Gaza Strip | August 2024’](#), 20 September 2024

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) report, dated 24 August 2024, states that “As the war on Gaza continues, mass evacuation orders issued by the Israeli military have become an ongoing daily routine, uprooting nearly 90 percent of Gaza’s residents since October 2023. [...]” UNFPA stated how the situation was an “escalating humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza”:

“The scale of displacement is staggering. Nearly two million people have been forced from their homes since October 2023. This mass displacement has not only devastated families but also severely disrupted humanitarian operations, with at least 24 humanitarian organizations reporting forced displacement of staff and interrupted support services.

In August alone, **Israeli forces issued an average of 12 evacuation orders**, about once every two days, displacing up to 250,000 people. Deir Al Balah, one of the few areas with essential infrastructure and warehouses storing aid supplies, has seen its population forced to flee. Families and humanitarian workers are trapped in an endless cycle of displacement, often fleeing under fire with only the belongings they can carry. [...] UNFPA-supported youth volunteers have been crucial in supporting humanitarian efforts, taking on key roles in needs assessments, aid distribution, and implementing youth-led initiatives that have helped thousands of displaced people. Despite their vital contributions, their work has been disrupted by repeated evacuations, forcing them to disperse across various locations and endure increasingly dire conditions.

Evacuation orders have also severely impacted aid workers, including UNFPA staff, who are serving thousands of displaced people. They continue to work under immense challenges, with many living in the streets in makeshift tents and having limited access to water and other essential services.”

***Please note the number of evacuation orders in the source above is in a publication dated 24 August 2024 and therefore may differ to sources with a more recent publication date which cover the entirety of August 2024.***

Source: UNFPA, [‘The devastating impact of mass evacuation orders in Gaza on women and girls’](#), 24 August 2024

On 23 August 2024, Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP) published on the impact of evacuation orders issued by Israeli forces:

“On 21 August, Israeli forces issued “evacuation” orders to areas in Deir al-Balah, including parts of the so-called “humanitarian zone” where thousands of Palestinians have sought shelter, and many UK humanitarian organisations have been operating with offices and staff based there. Several organisations, including Action For Humanity, Christian Aid, Islamic Relief UK and Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP), have been impacted with staff forced to flee and warehouses containing desperately needed humanitarian supplies now rendered inaccessible. The government should be in no doubt what this means: more Palestinian children and families will be starved, deprived of medical care, and killed by preventable diseases on their watch.”

Source: Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP), [‘Gaza cannot wait: UK aid agencies at risk of closure in Deir al-Balah’](#), 23 August 2024



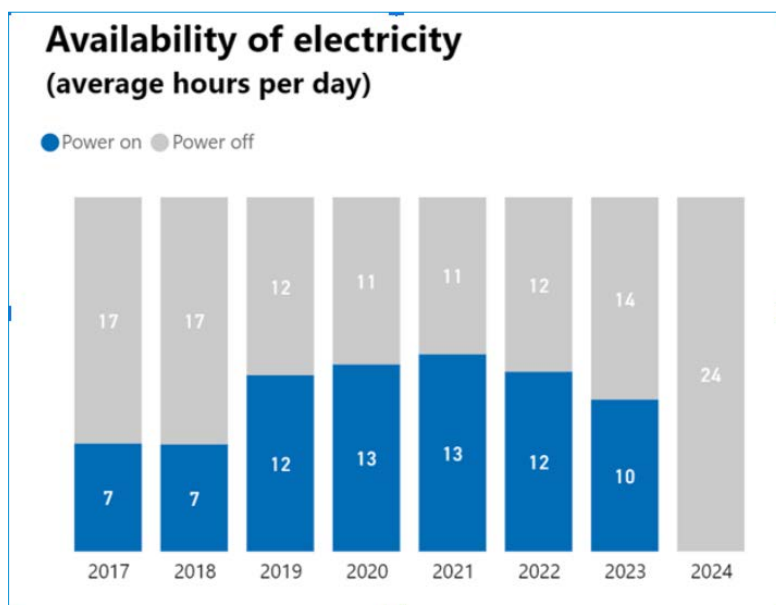
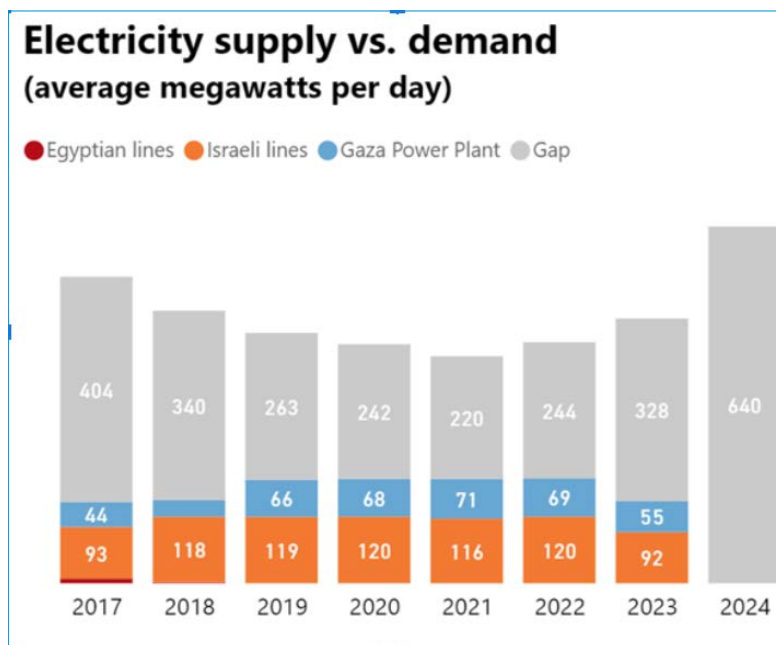
The World Food Programme reported on delays and accessibility issues for workers attempting to provide aid in Gaza:

“Apart from the damaged roads, aid workers grapple daily with slow authorizations and frequent refusals when they ask for permission to move. Looting and problems of public order are also frequent, especially when convoys have to wait for hours at holding points.”

Source: World Food Programme, '[Food operations in Gaza face growing challenges as ongoing conflict keeps hunger needs high](#)', 26 August 2024

The data presented in the following charts is provided to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) “on a daily basis by the Gaza Electricity Distribution Company (GEDCO), the official body in charge of electricity supply in the Gaza Strip.

The variation in electricity demand per day is estimated based on the temperatures recorded on that day”. The months available for January to April show no electricity was available:





Source: OCHA Occupied Palestinian Territory, '[Electricity in the Gaza Strip](#)', Last accessed 24 September 2024

Data on the number of UNRWA team members killed since 7 October 2023 was published by UNRWA, and “valid as of 23 September 2024 at 22:30”:

“the total number of UNRWA team members killed since 7 October is 224.”

Source: UNRWA, '[UNRWA Situation Report #139 on the situation in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem](#)', 23 September 2024

On 16 September 2024, the OCHA compilation of data documented that:

“[m]ost of the rehabilitation workforce in Gaza has been displaced and 39 physiotherapists have reportedly been killed as of 10 May.”

Source: OCHA Occupied Palestinian Territory, '[Humanitarian Situation Update #218 | Gaza Strip](#)', 16 September 2024

UNRWA stated that Israeli airstrikes killed six UNRWA employees in the central Gaza Strip. The following text was shared with a video interview posted by UNRWA on 12 September 2024:

"This is one of the most difficult days that we've faced in @UNRWA in #Gaza during the most difficult conflict that we've ever faced." Sam Rose to @AJEnglish on the horrific attack on one of our schools in Nuseirat yesterday, where six of our colleagues were killed."

On 11 September 2024, UNRWA published a statement reporting that six UNRWA staff were killed that day in an UNRWA school hit in Nuseirat:

“Gaza: six UNRWA colleagues killed today when two airstrikes hit a school and its surroundings in Nuseirat in the middle areas. This is the highest death toll among our staff in a single incident. Among those killed was the manager of the UNRWA shelter and other team members providing assistance to displaced people. Sincere condolences to their families and loved ones. This school has been hit five times since the war began. It is home to around 12,000 displaced people, mainly women and children. No one is safe in Gaza No one is spared. Schools and other civilian infrastructure must be protected at all times, they are not a target. We call on all parties to the conflict to never use schools or the areas around them for military or fighting purposes.”

Source: UNRWA, '[Statement – Six UNRWA colleagues killed in an UNRWA school hit in Nuseirat](#)', 11 September 2024

The Institute for the Study of War cited a source stating that “The IDF released a list of names of the Hamas fighters that the IDF killed in the airstrikes.” The source was Avichay Adraee, posting on the platform X (formerly Twitter), allegedly serving as the head of the Arab media division of the Israel Defense Force (IDF) Spokesperson's Unit, according to sources.

“The IDF stated that it has received reports that the individuals killed were associated with UNRWA. The IDF added that it has contacted UNRWA for the names of the individuals but that UNRWA has not yet responded [...] The IDF reported that it killed nine Hamas fighters, three of whom the IDF said worked for UNRWA while they were members of Hamas [...]”

Source: Institute for the Study of War, ‘[IRAN UPDATE, SEPTEMBER 12, 2024](#)’, 12 September 2024; X, IDF Online, [Status](#), 2:46pm, Last accessed 23 September 2024, 12 September 2024; X, Avichay Adraee, [Status](#), 12 September 2024 2:50pm, Last accessed 23 September 2024

On 12 September 2024, the Inter Press Service reported on an airstrike in Al-Mawasi displacement camp in Gaza:

“On Tuesday [10 September 2024], an airstrike was carried out in Al-Mawasi, on a displacement camp situated on the Gaza Strip. According to the Gaza Civil Defense Agency, 40 people were killed and over 60 were injured. Despite being designated as a “safe zone” by the Israel Defense Forces (IDF), this region has seen continual airstrikes and armed hostility since December 2023.

“Prior to the eruption of hostilities in Gaza, Al-Mawasi was home to about 9,000 Palestinians. It was known as the “Basket of Food” due to its highly fertile conditions for agriculture. The region is relatively small, stretching for about 14 kilometers.”

“In 2023, Israeli authorities declared the Al-Mawasi settlement will be exempt from attacks during Israel’s occupation of Gaza. Thousands of displaced Palestinians flocked to this region, only to find that the camps were bereft of critical resources, such as food, water, healthcare, and sanitation.

“The use of heavy weapons in densely populated areas is unconscionable. Palestinians had moved to this area in Khan Younis in search of shelter and search of safety, after being repeatedly instructed to do so by the Israeli authorities,” stated Stéphane Dujarric, Spokesperson for the Secretary-General, at a United Nations (UN) press briefing on 10 September 2024.

[...] The IDF claims that Al-Mawasi was the target for this recent bombing due to reports of the terrorist organization, Hamas, being situated in the settlements, stating that they “struck significant Hamas terrorists who were operating within a command-and-control center embedded inside the humanitarian area.”. Hamas denied these claims.

The IDF adds that only Hamas members were targeted in this recent airstrike and that they tried to mitigate harm inflicted on civilians by using “precise munitions.” They did not confirm or deny if civilians in the area were warned prior to the bombing. [...]

“Patrick Senft, a research coordinator at Armament Research Services (ARES), said, “The significant damage and the size of the craters align with the expected effects of aerial bombs weighing several hundred kilograms.”

[...] The explosions created three significant craters in the displacement camp, trapping several Palestinians under the debris. Gaza’s Health Ministry states, “A number of victims are still under the rubble, under the sand, and on the roads, and ambulance and civil defense crews cannot reach them and retrieve them, and they have not reached hospitals yet.”

The airstrikes on Tuesday have been one of the deadliest attacks that have taken place in Al-Mawasi since the beginning of the war last year. Despite prior notions that Al-Mawasi was exempt from hostilities, UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, stated that no place is safe in Gaza.”

Source: Inter Press Service, ‘[Safe Zone’ Al-Mawasi Bombed, Leaving Dozens Killed](#)’, 12 September 2024; United Nations, ‘[Gaza: UN envoy condemns deadly strike on camp in humanitarian zone](#)’, 10 September 2024

In its most recent publication on “violence faced by humanitarian workers at the checkpoints” OCHA reported:

“There have been multiple incidents of shots being fired towards, near, or around humanitarian convoys as they approach checkpoints, despite the vehicles being clearly marked and having received prior confirmation from the Israeli forces. The most severe incident occurred on 27 August, when a marked WFP convoy was fired at with live ammunition by Israeli forces, sustaining extensive damage from approximately ten rounds, despite the movement being fully coordinated in advance.”

During August 2024, OCHA stated that “there have been numerous instances of direct and indirect munitions impact on static sites, such as guesthouses and offices used by humanitarian workers.”:

“In Deir al Balah, the gate and wall of a guardroom sustained extensive damage due to military operations on 6 August. The guard, who was sheltering in place further inside the compound, remained unharmed. On 21 August, during an Israeli military operation in Khan Younis, the roof of an NGO compound was damaged, no staff were injured or killed. Others have not been as fortunate - a strike in Jabalya tragically claimed the lives of a local NGO staff member, his wife and their children on 28 August. He was running a food kitchen, providing support to families in northern Gaza that desperately need food assistance.”

Source: OCHA Occupied Palestinian Territory, [‘Humanitarian Access Snapshot – Gaza Strip | August 2024’](#), 20 September 2024

The Humanitarian Coordinator for the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Mr Muhannad Hadi, released a statement regarding an incident on 9 September 2024. A UN convoy at Al Rashid Checkpoint in Gaza was unable to fulfil its humanitarian mission:

“While at the checkpoint the team was informed that the IDF wanted to hold two of the UN staff members in the convoy for further questioning. The situation escalated quickly, with soldiers pointing their weapons directly towards the convoy personnel. Live shots were fired, and tanks and bulldozers approached, engaged with, and damaged UN vehicles, endangering the lives of UN staff inside the vehicles. [...] This incident highlights the ongoing dangers and obstacles humanitarian personnel face in Gaza. Despite daily coordination of humanitarian movements with the Israeli Defense Forces, our staff and assets were not provided with sufficient protection, hindering our work.”

Source: OCHA Occupied Palestinian Territory, [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](#), 10 September 2024

According to a report on safe facilities and locations for humanitarian workers in August 2024, evacuation orders heavily affected several UN and NGO guesthouses, warehouses and other essential humanitarian facilities:

“The successive evacuation orders in August resulted in the mass displacement of people. It also had a significant impact on the humanitarian response. Evacuation orders on 21 August 2024 for the Israeli-designated Block 130 heavily affected several UN and NGO guesthouses that are providing safe accommodation for humanitarian workers, many of whom are national staff who have already been displaced from their homes along with their families. The evacuation order of part of the Israeli-designated Block 128 on 25 August forced 275 humanitarian workers and their families out of these guesthouses; they had to seek refuge in other available options as an interim measure, including sleeping in warehouses or tents due to lack of space in other notified humanitarian locations. The dispersal of humanitarian workers and assets into interim arrangements has an impact on operations. Staff are exposed to risk during movement, as well as additional trauma as many have already been displaced, along with their families, multiple times since October 2023.

The impact of evacuation orders extends beyond the guesthouses of humanitarian organizations to include numerous warehouses and other essential humanitarian facilities. After the latest evacuation orders in August, only one logistics hub remained accessible to humanitarian organizations without requiring a coordinated movement

process. This process is both extensive and frequently denied by the Israeli forces. Additionally, the Khan Younis Training Centre now struggles with just 8,000 square metres of space for storing assets and commodities for distribution, a significant reduction compared with the Rafah Logistics Base, which provides 20,000 square metres but is now inaccessible. Furthermore, the sole fuel station supporting the humanitarian response was situated near evacuated areas, increasing the risk of damage from shrapnel or crossfire affecting both staff and the facility.

Timely access to notified sites is increasingly critical as the operating environment shrinks. The average time required for Israeli authorities to acknowledge the notification of a humanitarian location has risen from two days in January to nine days in August. There is an urgent need for prompt acknowledgement of humanitarian locations and for predictable, sustained access to these locations.”

Source: OCHA Occupied Palestinian Territory, [‘Humanitarian Access Snapshot – Gaza Strip | August 2024’](#), 20 September 2024

Organisations had staff members displaced and vital aid and support operations evacuated due to orders by Israeli forces:

- “ActionAid, Al Rowan, Anera, Association for Palestine Youth, CESVI, Danish Refugee Council partners (DRC), IBC, Islamic Relief, Mercy Corps, Middle East Children’s Alliance, Médecins du Monde, Project HOPE, Save the Children, War Child, Humanity & Inclusion (HI), WeWorld, Oxfam, and Solidarités International all have staff members who were displaced due to orders by Israeli forces.”
- “ActionAid partner WEFAQ had to evacuate and dismantle their operations, including a shelter for displaced people, a food distribution warehouse, and their offices, relocating to Western Khan Younis. Meanwhile, another partner, Ma’an, was besieged by tanks in Deir El Balah. The Ma’an community centre, vital for supporting displaced families, is now severely compromised, hampering aid efforts.”
- “CARE International (CARE), HI, DanChurchAid/NorwegianChurchAid (DCA/NCA), International Rescue Committee (IRC), Middle East Children’s Alliance, Islamic Relief, War Child, Oxfam and Médecins du Monde have all had to suspend aid delivery and activities in areas that were impacted by these orders.”
- “Mercy Corps was directly impacted by displacement orders with their office, staff and shelter housing 60 people impacted.”
- “Oxfam, the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Save the Children, and IRC, reported that their premises are now less than one kilometre from heavy fighting.”

Source: Anera, [‘Gaza Humanitarian Access Snapshot #4: 13 – 26 August 2024’](#), 28 August 2024

In relation to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) entity ‘OCHA Occupied Palestinian Territory funding and the number of projects being implemented by international NGOs, national NGOs and UN agencies, the following recently published source is available. As of 23 September 2024:

“Member States have disbursed about US\$1.63 billion out of the \$3.42 billion (48 per cent) requested to meet the most critical needs of 2.3 million\* people in Gaza [...] between January and December 2024. For funding analysis, please see the Flash Appeal Financial Tracking dashboard. (\*2.3 million reflects the projected population of the Gaza Strip upon issuance of the Flash Appeal in April 2024. As of July 2024, the UN estimates that about 2.1 million people remain in the Gaza Strip, and this updated number is now used for programmatic purposes.)”

“During August 2024, the occupied Palestinian territory Humanitarian Fund (oPt HF) managed 93 ongoing projects, totalling \$79.7 million. These projects aimed to address urgent needs in the Gaza Strip (89 per cent) [...] They were strategically focused on education, food security, health, protection, emergency shelter and non-food items, water, sanitation, and hygiene, coordination and support services, multi-purpose cash assistance and nutrition. Of these projects, 52 projects are being implemented by international non-governmental organizations, 29 by national NGOs and 12 by UN agencies. Notably, 32 out of the 64 projects implemented by INGOs or the UN are being implemented in collaboration with national NGOs.”



The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) entity 'OCHA Occupied Palestinian Territory' noted that 'The Humanitarian Situation Update' is issued three times per week. The Gaza Strip is covered on Mondays and Fridays.

Source: OCHA Occupied Palestinian Territory, '[Humanitarian Situation Update #221 | Gaza Strip](#)', 23 September 2024

See also: UNRWA, '[How we are funded](#)', Undated; UNRWA, '[How we spend our funds](#)', Undated

### 2.1.2 Health

UNRWA cited the latest World Health Organisation data stating that “94 hospitals and primary health care centres (PHCCs) are not functioning. Fuel shortages continue to threaten humanitarian work, including health care provision, impacting the functionality of hospitals, PHCCs and ambulance services.”

UNRWA reported that it “remains a major actor in the health sector, providing health services across ten primary health centres and up to 100 mobile medical points across the Gaza Strip.”

*UNRWA stated the above information is valid as of 23 September 2024 at 22:30.*

Source: UNRWA, '[UNRWA Situation Report #139 on the situation in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem](#)', 23 September 2024

On 19 September, the UNICEF Deputy Executive Director Ted Chaiban stated that there was a need for “more medical evacuations for children and their guardians whose lives can be saved only with a medical treatment abroad. And we need more medical supplies and medical consumable like antibiotics for skin diseases, equipment for neonatal units, syringes and bandages for surgery rooms”.

Source: UNICEF, '[UNICEF Deputy Executive Director Ted Chaiban media briefing on mission to Israel, the Gaza Strip and the West Bank' Opening Remarks as Delivered](#)', 19 September 2024

- The World Health Organization (WHO) reports that only 17 out of 36 hospitals remain functional across Gaza – all of them partially –, with a cumulative capacity of 1,501 in-patient, maternity and Intensive Care Unit (ICU) beds. Ten field hospitals are also presently operational in the Deir al Balah, Khan Younis and Rafah governorates, six fully and four only partially, providing an additional in-patient capacity of over 600 beds. On 18 September, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) announced the opening of a new field hospital in Deir al Balah but added that at present the facility is only providing outpatient consultations as the “expansion of other services depends on Israeli authorities, who have delayed supplies entering Gaza”. Meanwhile, out of 132 primary health-care facilities, only 57 are currently functional in the Strip, including 10 out of 27 UNRWA health-care centres. Alongside a critical shortage of medicines and essential supplies, the Health Cluster warns of a severe scarcity of blood units across Gaza, which is endangering the life of patients, including people suffering from Thalassemia and other conditions requiring regular blood transfusions. Meanwhile, MoH continues to warn about the lack of fuel, spare parts, and filters to repair and maintain electricity generators in hospitals, which is threatening the functionality of ICUs, nurseries, and other essential health services.
- Out of six WHO missions planned to northern and southern Gaza between 13 and 18 September, only one was facilitated by Israeli authorities, while three were significantly delayed and two were denied. WHO and its partners managed to reach health facilities in northern Gaza twice on 14 and 18 September, delivering 48,000 litres of fuel to the Kamal Adwan and Indonesian hospitals. They also provided critically needed medical supplies to the newly rehabilitated Emergency Department at the Al Shifa Hospital and non-communicable disease kits to assist the Palestine Red Crescent Society's (PRCS) facilities in the north. WHO also facilitated the rotation of emergency medical team (EMT) personnel between northern and southern Gaza and the deployment of a new paediatrics EMT to the Kamal Adwan Hospital. Although the Indonesian Hospital is in an active evacuation zone, and the Al Awda and Kamal Adwan hospitals are just 200 and 485 metres respectively from the affected area; they continue

providing services to the affected population. Meanwhile, while dental care is almost absent in Gaza due to the lack of equipment and facilities, on 19 September, UNRWA reopened a dental clinic in one of its health centres in Khan Younis. The PRCS also reported the completion of the first fully equipped mobile operating room in southern Gaza that can be deployed whenever needed.

Source: OCHA Occupied Palestinian Territory, '[Humanitarian Situation Update #221 | Gaza Strip](#)', 23 September 2024

On 16 September 2024, the OCHA reflected on the recently published health reports. This includes, the Ministry of Health data on the number of people in Gaza with life-changing injuries requiring rehabilitation, as well as the World Health Organization (WHO) statistics published on severe limb injuries, limb amputation and rehabilitation:

“At least 22,500 people, or one-quarter of all MoH-reported injuries in Gaza by 23 July, are estimated to have life-changing injuries that require rehabilitation services “now and for years to come,” highlights the World Health Organization (WHO) in a recent analysis [published 30 July 2024]. Severe limb injuries – estimated to be between 13,455 and 17,550 –are the main driver of long-term rehabilitation needs. WHO also assesses that between 3,000 and 4,000 limb amputations have occurred, in addition to about 2,000 spinal cord and severe traumatic brain injuries and at least 2,000 major burns. Amid a decimated health-care system, “acute rehabilitation services are severely disrupted and specialized care for complex injuries is not available, placing patients’ lives at risk,” warned WHO. Gaza’s only limb reconstruction and rehabilitation centre, located in the Nasser Medical Complex in Khan Younis, became non-functional in December 2023, and was damaged in February 2024. Most of the rehabilitation workforce in Gaza has been displaced and 39 physiotherapists have reportedly been killed as of 10 May. No in-patient rehabilitation and prosthetic services are present, and even the most essential assistive devices, like wheelchairs and crutches, are lacking due to the restricted flow of aid. Tens of thousands of Palestinians in the Strip were already living with pre-existing chronic conditions and impairments before the latest escalation, making it even more critical to integrate rehabilitation services in the ongoing response. Beyond the lack of acute trauma care options, stocks of the most essential medical supplies continue to decrease in Gaza due to persistent obstacles hampering the entry of aid. According to the Health Cluster, public health facilities in southern Gaza are reporting an over 70 per cent shortage of critical health items, including consumables, complete blood count kits and laboratory equipment.”

Source: OCHA Occupied Palestinian Territory, '[Humanitarian Situation Update #218 | Gaza Strip](#)', 16 September 2024; World Health Organization (WHO), '[Estimating trauma rehabilitation needs in Gaza using Injury data from Emergency Medical Teams](#)', 30 July 2024

The Ministry of Health in Gaza reported that 70 per cent of medications and 83 per cent of health supplies have been exhausted from its stockpiles, with this severe deficit forcing hospitals and health-care facilities to suspend services and vital procedures such as heart surgeries, cardiac catheterisation and joint replacements. The source was published by way of video on 17 September 2024.

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Health, '[Delivering lifesaving supplies into Gaza is nearly impossible amidst Israeli authorities](#)', 17 September 2024

“Half of all essential medicine is not available in Gaza, with life-saving medication, like insulin, running out.”

Source: OCHA Occupied Palestinian Territory, '[Humanitarian Situation Update #215 | Gaza Strip](#)', 9 September 2024

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) reported that almost 650 patients fled the MSF-supported Al Aqsa Hospital in Deir Al Balah, Central Gaza, following an evacuation order issued by Israeli forces on 25 August and an explosion around 250 metres from the hospital:

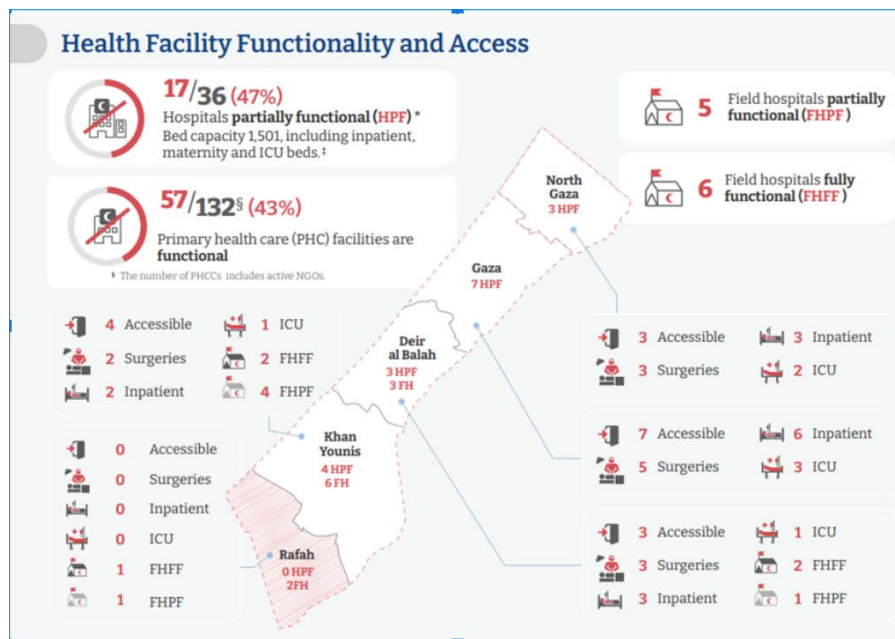
On Sunday 24 August, before an evacuation order was issued close to Al Aqsa Hospital, there were approximately 650 patients receiving care there, and hundreds more seeking sanctuary in the hospital grounds. Today, Al Aqsa Hospital is almost unrecognisable. “The hospital looks really empty. Before the evacuation order and explosions, the hospital was

so crowded that patients sometimes had to be treated on the floor,” says Dr Sohaib Safi, Deputy Medical Coordinator for MSF in Gaza.

MSF opened a field hospital in Deir Al Balah “earlier than planned and started receiving first patients amid a severe lack of supplies and resources”. The field hospital “already faces huge pressure as the other remaining hospitals are under threat”.

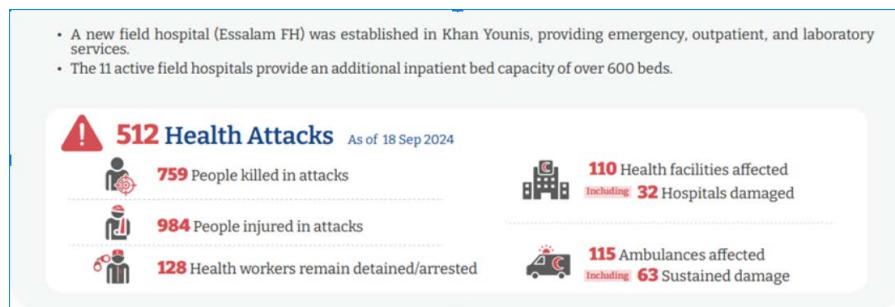
Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), ‘[Gaza: MSF opens a field hospital amid dismantling of healthcare system](#)’, 28 August 2024

The World Health Organisation reported on health facility functionality and access in Gaza. As of 24 September 2024, the World Health Organization’s (WHO) latest publication in its series ‘Gaza Hostilities 2023 / 2024 - Emergency Situation Reports’ was dated 18 September 2024:



Source: World Health Organization (WHO), ‘[oPt Emergency Situation Update, 7 Oct 2023 – 20 Aug 2024 \(Issue 45\)](#)’, 18 September 2024

The World Health Organisation (WHO) reported on the latest statistics related to health attacks, as of 18 September 2024 and between the period 7 October 2023- 20 August 2024. The following data gathered by WHO covers the reported number of people killed, people injured, health workers detained/arrested, health facilities affected (including hospitals damaged) and ambulances affected:



Source: World Health Organization (WHO), ‘[oPt Emergency Situation Update, 7 Oct 2023 – 20 Aug 2024 \(Issue 45\)](#)’, 18 September 2024

Defence for Children International – Palestine (DCIP) published a report on children facing health issues in the Gaza strip, and the lack of the necessary medications and medical staff in crowded hospitals. The report is dated 3 September 2024:

“Israeli bombing and ongoing strikes have destroyed basic infrastructure in Gaza, including water and sewage networks. This, along with cutting off electricity and the blockage of detergent and medicine deliveries into Gaza, has led to an increase in the spread of diseases and epidemics, particularly those that are infectious and highly contagious. Palestinians in the Gaza Strip have recently witnessed an alarming outbreak of diseases among the population, mostly children, as a result of the extremely harsh conditions they live in, specifically in the crowded displacement camps that house hundreds of thousands of Palestinians. [...]

The UN reported over 40,000 cases of hepatitis A have now been identified in Gaza:

“People in Gaza are facing yet another peril: Hepatitis A is spreading including among children,” Philippe Lazzarini, head of the UN agency that assists Palestine refugees, UNRWA, wrote on social media. Since the start of the war last October, UNRWA shelters and clinics have reported 40,000 cases of the disease, he said, compared to only 85 in the same period before conflict erupted, representing “a frightening increase”.

Source: UN, ‘Gaza: [‘Frightening increase’ in Hepatitis A cases](#)’, 2 August 2024

*(i) Health of women and girls*

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) entity ‘OCHA Occupied Palestinian Territory’ reported that women and girls are “disproportionately affected by the deteriorating health crisis in Gaza”:

“over 5,000 female cancer patients are unable to access treatment; twenty-five percent of women reported skin infections, twice as many as men; and they account for most hepatitis A and gastrointestinal diseases.”

Source: OCHA Occupied Palestinian Territory, ‘[Humanitarian Situation Update #220 | Gaza Strip](#)’, 20 September 2024

The World Health Organisation (WHO) reported on the latest statistics on access and availability of health services for women, as of 18 September 2024 and between the period 7 October 2023 – 20 August 2024:



- More than 500,000 women in the reproductive age lack access to essential services including antenatal care, postnatal care, family planning and management of sexual transmitted infections.
- Maternity services are provided at eight out of 17 partially functioning hospitals, and at four field hospitals (ICRC, IMC, UKMED, and Kuwait FHs).

Source: World Health Organization (WHO), ‘[oPt Emergency Situation Update, 7 Oct 2023 – 20 Aug 2024 \(Issue 45\)](#)’, 18 September 2024

Reporting on challenges to its humanitarian response amid evacuation orders, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations sexual and reproductive health agency, stated that this “has been severely hindered by the ongoing mass evacuation orders and intensified fighting”. UNFPA details how has impacted the health and lives of women and girls:

“Multiple evacuation orders have led to the closure of one safe space for women and girls that provided critical protection and support to those at risk of gender-based violence. UNFPA supports hospitals providing emergency

obstetric and neonatal care by delivering regular supplies and technical assistance. However, security issues have disrupted these deliveries and fuel supplies, which are essential for maintaining these services. As a result, functioning hospitals are overwhelmed with more patients and have to manage with limited resources. Four UNFPA-supported maternal health service delivery points in the middle area and Khan Younis governorates, which served thousands of women, have also been forced to shut down as a result of the evacuation orders.”

“From day one of the war in Gaza, UNFPA has been fully committed to serving women and girls, under very difficult circumstances, to ensure that every childbirth in Gaza is safe and that women are protected from any form of gender-based violence. However, the situation continues to deteriorate as a result of the continuous evacuation orders which have rendered many health facilities inaccessible. This catastrophic situation must end. The war must end now and not tomorrow” - Peninnah T. Kyoyagala, Head of UNFPA Office in Gaza]

UNFPA stated that the “logistical challenges are immense”:

“Since early July, UNFPA has managed to bring in only one truckload of desperately needed reproductive health supplies into Gaza due to delays at crossings and man-made logistical hurdles. This shipment, which arrived two days ago, is currently stored in a warehouse that was designated a red zone following an evacuation order and is now inaccessible for distribution to health facilities. Consequently, delays in providing quality healthcare have further endangered the lives of women and girls.

In the north, transporting fuel to key hospitals supported by UNFPA has been impossible for two weeks, critically hindering maternity health services. The fuel, which is distributed by WHO, remains undelivered as requests to travel to the North have been denied by Israeli Authorities.”

Source: UNFPA, [‘The devastating impact of mass evacuation orders in Gaza on women and girls’](#), 24 August 2024

On 23 September 2024, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) entity ‘OCHA Occupied Palestinian Territory’ published its update on the health situation in Gaza. The Gaza Strip is covered on Mondays and Fridays. As of 23 September 2024:

“The health crisis in Gaza deepens as only 17 out of 36 hospitals remain functional – all partially – and just 57 out of 132 primary health-care facilities are functional, all amid crippling shortages of fuel, medicine, and essential supplies.”

Source: OCHA Occupied Palestinian Territory, [‘Humanitarian Situation Update #221 | Gaza Strip’](#), 23 September 2024

UN Women Regional Office for the Arab States research, including a survey conducted across Gaza, found that:

“More than 5,000 female cancer patients need immediate treatment, but all services have been suspended. Among seven female cancer patients interviewed, none could access life-saving treatment and medication.”

“More than 162,000 women suffer from or are at risk of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as hypertension, diabetes mellitus, cardiovascular disease and cancer. Women, in particular older women, in Gaza have historically been at a higher risk of NCDs. [...] There are over 30,841 women at risk of diabetes, 107,443 women at risk of hypertension, 18,583 women at risk of cardiovascular diseases, and 5,201 women with cancer. [...] Disruption in basic care for these diseases can result in long-term complications or death.”

Source: UN Women, [‘Gender Alert: Gaza: A War on Women’s Health’](#), September 2024

UNRWA summarised the findings of UN Women:

“The sole cancer facility present in the Strip is no longer functional and radiotherapy and systemic therapy are lacking. Women and girls are also being disproportionately affected by infectious diseases. Twenty-five per cent of



women surveyed reported skin infections, twice as many as men (12.5 per cent), and female respondents accounted for more than two thirds of hepatitis A and gastrointestinal diseases; this is likely due to women’s prevalent role in caring for sick family members. Women also reported higher rates of diabetes compared with men and were twice as likely to have hypertension, with access to medications being increasingly scarce. Meanwhile, an estimated 155,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women across Gaza are facing major obstacles in accessing prenatal and postnatal care, with rising complications during pregnancy, birth and subsequently and a shortage of essential medications for newborns. Among pregnant women interviewed, 92 per cent reported urinary tract infections, 76 per cent anaemia, 28 per cent pre-term labour, 44 per cent hypertensive disorders, 16 per cent haemorrhage and 12 per cent stillbirth. based on research, including a survey conducted across Gaza.”

Source: OCHA Occupied Palestinian Territory, '[Humanitarian Situation Update #220 | Gaza Strip](#)', 20 September 2024

Due to the escalation of attacks by Israeli forces on shelters and schools organisations such as Médecins du Monde and War Child had “to pause services such as medical and psychosocial support and education activities for children at a time when 17,000 children are estimated to be unaccompanied.”

Source: Anera, '[Gaza Humanitarian Access Snapshot #4: 13 – 26 August 2024](#)', 28 August 2024

#### *(ii) Healthcare workers*

Human Rights Watch reported that Israeli forces arbitrarily detain and allegedly torture and ill-treat Palestinian healthcare workers in Gaza:

“**Israeli** forces have arbitrarily detained Palestinian healthcare workers in Gaza since hostilities began in October 2023, deported them to detention facilities in Israel, and allegedly tortured and ill-treated them [...]

The detention of healthcare workers in the context of the Israeli military’s repeated attacks on hospitals in Gaza has contributed to the catastrophic degradation of the besieged territory’s healthcare system.

Released doctors, nurses and paramedics described to Human Rights Watch their mistreatment in Israeli custody, including humiliation, beatings, forced stress positions, prolonged cuffing and blindfolding, and denial of medical care. They also reported torture, including rape and sexual abuse by Israeli forces, denial of medical care, and poor detention conditions for the general detainee population.”

Source: Human Rights Watch, '[Israel: Palestinian Healthcare Workers Tortured](#)', 26 August 2024

Between March to June 2024, Human Rights Watch interviewed eight Palestinian healthcare workers. According to Human Rights Watch the healthcare workers were:

- “taken by the Israeli military from Gaza between November and December 2023 and detained without charge for between seven days and five months.”
- “[s]ix were detained at work following Israeli sieges of hospitals or during hospital evacuations that they said had been coordinated with the Israeli military.”
- “[n]one [...] said they were ever informed of the reason for their detention or charged with an offense.”

Source: Human Rights Watch, '[Israel: Palestinian Healthcare Workers Tortured](#)', 26 August 2024

Human Rights Watch also spoke with seven people who witnessed Israeli soldiers detaining healthcare workers carrying out their duties.

According to Human Rights Watch research, the “Gaza Health Ministry reported that Israeli forces have detained at least 310 Palestinian healthcare workers since October 7. Healthcare Workers Watch-Palestine, a nongovernmental organization, documented 259 detentions of healthcare workers.”

The source reported that the healthcare workers faced “medical neglect despite the detainees’ numerous requests and clear, urgent need for treatment for preexisting health conditions, or for injuries sustained during the hostilities in Gaza or from abuses in custody.”

Source: Human Rights Watch, '[Israel: Palestinian Healthcare Workers Tortured](#)', 26 August 2024

### 2.1.3 Food and water

In a publication dated 28 August 2024 the “NRC [the Norwegian Refugee Council] reported that 12 water reservoirs were located within blocks told to relocate, making them inaccessible, which will result in a 70% reduction of water available for domestic purposes. [...] Service providers, including those delivering essential items like water or food, face challenges in reaching targeted locations close to these sites, affecting their ability to receive and distribute aid.”

Source: Anera '[Gaza Humanitarian Access Snapshot #4: 13 – 26 August 2024](#)', 28 August 2024

“In the last two months, WFP has managed to bring in only half of the 24,000 MT of food aid required for operations serving 1.1 million people.”

“For the first time last week [August 2024], WFP-supported community kitchens in northern Gaza are providing hot meals with fresh vegetables (potatoes and onions). This first delivery is part of WFP’s efforts to bring in nutritious fresh produce to supplement the emergency food rations that families have survived on for months and stave off malnutrition.”

Source: World Food Programme, '[Food operations in Gaza face growing challenges as ongoing conflict keeps hunger needs high](#)', 26 August 2024

Defence for Children International – Palestine (DCIP) published a report on children facing health issues in the Gaza strip, and the lack of the necessary medications and medical staff in crowded hospitals. The report is dated 3 September 2024:

“Israeli bombing and ongoing strikes have destroyed basic infrastructure in Gaza, including water and sewage networks. This, along with cutting off electricity and the blockage of detergent and medicine deliveries into Gaza, has led to an increase in the spread of diseases and epidemics, particularly those that are infectious and highly contagious. Palestinians in the Gaza Strip have recently witnessed an alarming outbreak of diseases among the population, mostly children, as a result of the extremely harsh conditions they live in, specifically in the crowded displacement camps that house hundreds of thousands of Palestinians. [...]

Seven-year-old Nasser was displaced multiple times, along with his family, from his home in Tel al-Zaatar neighborhood [sic], east of Jabalia refugee camp in the northern Gaza, to Deir al-Balah, in central Gaza. [...] Nasser suffers from chickenpox, which has spread all over his body. His father took him to many doctors, but they couldn't help due to the lack of the necessary medications and medical staff in crowded hospitals. He obtained antibiotics and ointment from a pharmacy, but it started leaving marks that looked like burns on Nasser's skin.

Rabab and her five children were displaced from their home near Kamal Adwan Hospital in northern Gaza due to heavy bombing around the hospital and moved to a shelter school in Deir al-Balah, in central Gaza.

“I increased my children's personal hygiene as much as possible, despite the scarcity of clean water. However, I was shocked when my youngest daughter Raseel, who's always with me, started showing signs of a skin rash," Rabab told DCIP.

"I took Raseel to the UNRWA clinic in Deir al-Balah, where the doctor said she had a contagious skin infection common among children," she continued. "He prescribed antibiotics and ointment, which initially helped. However, when the medication ran out, I returned to the clinic but found they had none left due to supply shortages from the crossing closures and the widespread infection. I couldn't find the treatment in pharmacies either, and the redness on Raseel's body spread even more."

"I buy fresh water and bathe Raseel three to four times daily to relieve her itching, but she cries all day," Rabab said. "The high temperatures inside the classroom make everyone sweat, increasing the risk of infection. With a scarcity of clean water and expensive hygiene products, I'm now afraid the infection will spread to my other children and even to myself."

"[...] The reappearance of polio in Gaza is linked to several factors, such as the severe damage to the Gaza's health and sanitation systems caused by ongoing bombardment, which has interrupted routine vaccination efforts. In response, the World Health Organization (WHO) and other health organizations have launched a vaccination campaign aimed at protecting more than 640,000 children under the age of 10 from this highly contagious disease, which can cause irreversible paralysis of the limbs or even death.

According to the Palestinian Ministry of Health and UNICEF, more than 189,000 children received the first dose of the polio vaccine in the central governorate of the Gaza Strip over the past two days. The vaccination campaign will then continue in the northern and southern governorates of the Gaza Strip."

Source: Defence for Children International-Palestine (DCIP), "[Covered in blisters": Chickenpox and other skin diseases spread among Palestinian children in Gaza amid Israeli genocide](#)", 5 September 2024

## Polio vaccinations

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) stated that it and its partners vaccinated 90% of targeted children:

"The first round of the #polio vaccination campaign in #Gaza ended yesterday. @UNRWA and partners have vaccinated hundreds of thousands of children, successfully reaching 90% vaccination coverage. Our next challenge will be providing the second dose, needed in the coming weeks."

Source: X, UNRWA, [Status](#), 13 September 2024, 09:37. Last accessed 23 September 2024

"The United Nations, in collaboration with the local health authorities, embarked on the third day of a complex campaign to vaccinate around 640,000 children in Gaza against polio. United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres described pauses in fighting to allow the vaccinations as a "rare ray of hope and humanity in the cascade of horror," his spokesperson said on Tuesday. "If the parties can act to protect children from a deadly virus...surely they can and must act to protect children and all innocents from the horrors of war," U.N. spokesperson Stephane Dujarric said. Rik Peepkorn, WHO representative for the Occupied Palestinian Territories, told reporters in Geneva that it had vaccinated more than 161,000 children under the age of 10 in the central area in the first two days of its campaign, compared with a projection of around 150,000. "Up until now things are going well," he said. "These humanitarian pauses, up until now they work. We still have 10 days to go." He said that some children in southern Gaza were thought to be outside the agreed zone for the pauses and that negotiations continued in order to reach them. Palestinians say a key reason for the return of polio is the collapse of the health system and the destruction of most Gaza hospitals. Israel accuses Hamas of using hospitals for military purposes, which the Islamist group denies."

Source: Reuters, [Israeli attacks in Gaza kill 35 Palestinians but pauses allow third day of polio vaccinations](#), 3 September 2024. Last accessed 23 September 2024.

On 13 September 2024, UNICEF reported that "Around 560 000 children under ten years old were vaccinated against polio during the first round of an emergency vaccination campaign conducted in three phases from 1-12 September 2024 in the Gaza Strip.":

“The 12-day campaign provided novel oral polio vaccine type 2 (nOPV2) to 558 963 children, following meticulous planning and coordination. This involved the use of an extensive network of teams, vaccinating at selected fixed sites at health facilities and outreach posts. Mobile and transit teams actively reached out to families living in shelter homes, tents, and camps for the displaced, alongside community workers engaging families to raise awareness ahead of and during the campaign. For each phase, an area-specific humanitarian pause of nine hours daily was agreed to ensure the safety of communities and health workers, and enable vaccination efforts.”

UNICEF quoted Dr Richard Peeperkorn, WHO Representative for the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt):

“Health and community workers have shown incredible resilience, carrying out this campaign at unprecedented scale and speed under the toughest conditions in Gaza. Swift action by the Global Polio Eradication Initiative—from the moment the virus was detected to the launch of the vaccination campaign—speaks to the effectiveness of the polio programme. In areas where humanitarian pauses took place, the campaign brought not just vaccines, but moments of calm. As we prepare for the next round in four weeks, we’re hopeful these pauses will hold, because this campaign has clearly shown the world what’s possible when peace is given a chance,” said Dr Richard Peeperkorn, WHO Representative for the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt).”

UNICEF also quoted Jean Gough, UNICEF Special Representative in the State of Palestine:

**“The progress made in this first round is encouraging, but the job is far from done. We are poised to finish the task and call on all involved to ensure we can do so in the next round in four weeks' time, for the sake of children everywhere.”**

UNICEF reported that “Partners at all levels recognize common operational challenges faced during these efforts, including devastated infrastructure, from health facilities to roads, limited trained healthcare workers, access issues due to insecurity, limited fuel for generators used to safely store vaccines and freeze ice packs, and constant population movements. However, these issues were addressed in a timely manner, with the key support of the Palestinian Ministry of Health and UNRWA, to enable planned vaccination activities.”

UNICEF noted that the “original target for the campaign was 640 000 children, estimated in the absence of an accurate survey, which may have been an over-estimate, as the population continues to move from place to place, and people are fleeing and being killed due to the ongoing hostilities.”

The next steps involve UNICEF deploying “an additional 65 independent monitors [...] to cross-check the proportion of children vaccinated across the Gaza Strip to independently assess the level of coverage achieved in the first round.”

UNICEF stressed that “They need safe, unimpeded access so they can visit households, markets, transit points, and health facilities to check children for the prominent purple dye marked on their little finger when they are vaccinated. These efforts will provide an independent measure of the percentage of vaccination coverage achieved and reasons for any unvaccinated children. A second round of the campaign will follow, ideally within four weeks, to provide a second dose of nOPV2 to children in Gaza to stop the outbreak and prevent its international spread. To repeat this ambitious intervention, reach enough children, and successfully stop further transmission of the poliovirus, WHO, UNICEF and UNRWA are calling on all parties to the conflict to commit to another round of humanitarian pauses, with unimpeded access to children in areas that need special coordination. Ultimately, we need a long-lasting ceasefire as all families in the Gaza Strip need peace so they can begin to heal and rebuild their lives.”

Source: UNICEF, ‘[Around 560 000 children vaccinated in first round of polio campaign in Gaza](#)’, 13 September 2024

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) stated that it and its partners vaccinated 90% of targeted children:

**“The first round of the #polio vaccination campaign in #Gaza ended yesterday. @UNRWA and partners have**

vaccinated hundreds of thousands of children, successfully reaching 90% vaccination coverage. Our next challenge will be providing the second dose, needed in the coming weeks.”

Source: X, UNRWA, [Status](#), 13 September 2024, 09:37. Last accessed 23 September 2024

UNICEF reported on the “completion of the first phase of the polio vaccination campaign in the Gaza Strip”:

“Children are receiving polio vaccines at UNRWA health clinic in Deir al-Balah in the center of the Gaza Strip. The vaccination campaign is expected to run for the coming days, aiming to ensure reach, particularly in low-coverage areas. Teams operate daily from 6:00 am to 2:00 pm, with mobile units extending reach across the area.”

In the source published by UNICEF, Adele Khodr, the UNICEF Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa, stated:

“The ongoing destruction of vital infrastructure - including in health, water, and sanitation systems – continues to increase the risk of deadly disease outbreaks across the Strip. Prior to the beginning of this conflict, children had very high immunization coverage in Gaza, of over 99% per cent. “This is among the most dangerous and difficult vaccination campaigns on the planet. The Gaza Strip is already the most dangerous place in the world to be a child, and even with a polio pause, the vaccination campaign faces grave danger and immeasurable obstacles, including damaged roads and health infrastructure, displaced populations, looting and disrupted supply routes.”

Source: UNICEF, [‘Statement by UNICEF Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa, Adele Khodr, on the Completion of the First Phase of the Polio Vaccination Campaign in the Gaza Strip’](#), 4 September 2024

On 11 September 2024, UNRWA provided an update on the number of people it believes have received the polio vaccine:

“Nearly 530,000 children have now received the vaccine across the Gaza Strip and we continue to work around the clock to reach all children under 10 [...]”.

Source: X, UNRWA, [Status](#), 11 September 2024 at 13:54, Last accessed 23 September 2023

On 10 September 2024, the Institute for the Study of War compiled sources and reported:

“The IDF prevented two Palestinians traveling [sic] in a UN vehicle convoy from entering the northern Gaza Strip on September 9 [...] The IDF detained a UN convoy after it passed through the Wadi Gaza checkpoint in the central Gaza Strip [...] UNRWA Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini said that the UN convoy was transporting Palestinian and international staff to Gaza City and the northern Gaza Strip in order to work on the polio vaccination campaign [...] The IDF stated that Israeli forces stopped the convoy to question two Palestinian suspects traveling [sic] with the convoy [...] Israeli Army Radio reported that the two Palestinians were trying to travel to the northern Gaza Strip without Israeli approval. [...] UN spokesperson Stephane Dujarric said that Israeli forces encircled the convoy and that Israeli tanks and a bulldozer “proceeded to ram the UN vehicles.” [...] Lazzarini said that the IDF bulldozers inflicted “heavy damage” to the UN armored [sic] vehicles. UN officials said that Israeli forces stopped the convoy for eight hours. [...] Israeli forces released the two Palestinians from detainment but did not allow them to continue to the northern Gaza Strip. [...] Dujarric added that Israeli forces’ conduct endangered the UN staff. [...] The IDF stated that the convoy was not carrying polio vaccines. [...]”

Source: Institute for the Study of War, [‘IRAN UPDATE, SEPTEMBER 10, 2024’](#), 10 September 2024

A humanitarian pause began on 1 September 2024 in the central Gaza Strip to allow for a polio vaccination campaign. The nine-hour pauses were to last over three days. On 3 September 2024, the World Health Organisation reported on the polio vaccination phases in Gaza:



“Over 187 000 children under ten years of age were vaccinated with novel oral polio vaccine type 2 (nOPV2) in central Gaza during the first phase of a two-round polio vaccination campaign, conducted between 1–3 September 2024. Vaccination coverage in this phase exceeded the initial estimated target of 157 000 children due to population movement towards central Gaza, and expanded coverage in areas outside the humanitarian pause zone.

To ensure no child is missed in this area, polio vaccination will continue at four large health facilities in central Gaza over the next few days. Vaccine doses have been supplied to these sites to meet any additional needs.

“It has been extremely encouraging to see thousands of children being able to access polio vaccines, with the support of their resilient families and courageous health workers, despite the deplorable conditions they have braved over the last 11 months. All parties respected the humanitarian pause and we hope to see this positive momentum continue,” said Dr Richard Peeperkorn, WHO Representative for the occupied Palestinian territory.

The first phase of the campaign was conducted by 513 teams, consisting of over 2180 health and community outreach workers. Vaccination was provided at 143 fixed sites, including hospitals, medical points, primary care centres, camps where displaced people are living, key public gathering spaces such as temporary learning spaces, food and water distribution points, and transit routes leading from central towards northern and southern Gaza. Additionally, mobile teams visited tents and hard-to-reach areas to ensure they reached families who were unable to visit fixed sites. The presence of a substantial number of children eligible for vaccination who were unable to reach vaccination sites due to insecurity, necessitated special missions to Al-Maghazi, Al-Bureij and Al-Mussader – areas just outside of the agreed zone for the humanitarian pause.

Preparations are underway to roll out the next phase of the campaign, which will be conducted in southern Gaza from 5–8 September 2024, targeting an estimated 340 000 children below ten years of age. Some 517 teams, including 384 mobile teams, will be deployed. Nearly 300 community outreach workers have already begun outreach to families in southern Gaza to raise awareness about the campaign, while 490 vaccine carriers, 90 cold storage boxes, and other supplies have been transferred to Khan Younis for distribution to vaccination sites.

The third and last phase of the polio vaccination campaign will be implemented in northern Gaza from 9–11 September 2024, targeting around 150 000 children.

At least 90% vaccination coverage during each round of the campaign is needed to stop the outbreak, prevent the international spread of polio and reduce the risk of its re-emergence, given the severely disrupted health, water and sanitation systems in the Gaza Strip. Vaccination coverage will be monitored throughout the campaign, and, when necessary, vaccinations will be extended to meet coverage targets as part of flexible strategies to ensure every eligible child receives their vaccine dose.

The two-round campaign, being conducted by the Palestinian Ministry of Health (MOH), in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) and United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) and many partners, aims to provide two drops of nOPV2 to around 640 000 children during each round.

“The successful delivery of the first phase of the campaign in central Gaza is a culmination of immense coordination among various partners, including the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) and donors, and underscores the importance of peace for the health and well-being of people in Gaza. We call on all parties to continue fulfilling their commitment to the humanitarian pauses as the second phase of the campaign begins tomorrow,” said Dr Peeperkorn.”

Source: World Health Organisation, ‘[First phase of polio campaign concludes successfully in Gaza](#)’, 4 September 2024

Care International reported that “Aid agencies and medical professionals are now urgently calling for a humanitarian pause in the conflict to enable the administration of life-saving vaccinations to approximately 640,000 vulnerable children under the age of 10. The appeal follows the Gaza Ministry of Health’s confirmation of Abdelrahman’s case, with additional suspected cases now emerging.”

Source: Care International, ‘[Polio in Gaza: The latest](#)’, 30 August 2024

### 2.1.4 Hygiene

On 13 September 2024, the WASH Cluster in collaboration with the occupied Palestinian Territory Health Cluster called for urgent action to supply critical hygiene items in the Gaza Strip. The advocacy document ‘Urgent Hygiene Crisis: Combatting Diarrhea and Skin Infections in Gaza’, was a “call for action for the Importation of Soap, Shampoo, and Detergent”:

“In the Gaza Strip, where health care facilities are overstretched and living conditions are unsanitary, the lack of access to soap and basic hygiene items makes it difficult for families to protect themselves against communicable diseases. Promoting handwashing with soap is essential for enhancing public health and preventing disease outbreaks. The lack of hygiene items disproportionately affects children, pregnant women, and people with compromised immune systems. The scarcity of basic hygiene supplies, especially in crowded shelters, also contributes to increased stress and anxiety among families. Handwashing with soap is one of the most effective ways to prevent the spread of WASH-related diseases, such as diarrhea, respiratory infections, and scabies and other skin infections. This simple practice can reduce diarrheal diseases by up to 40% and respiratory infections by about 20%. It can protect approximately one in three children who suffer from diarrhea and prevent the spread of germs to food, drinks, and surfaces. Hygiene practices are also crucial for maintaining nutritional health by reducing the incidence of diarrhea, which can lead to malnutrition. Additionally, it helps prevent the spread of scabies by removing mites and their eggs from the skin. The situation in the Gaza Strip is dire, with soap either unavailable in markets or sold at unreasonably high prices, averaging 38 NIS (10 USD) per 75g piece. Hygiene items are normally a cost-efficient means for disease prevention when compared to the costs of responding to an outbreak. The WASH cluster estimates that a family relying on cash for work income would spend 60% of the unskilled income on consumable hygiene items (35% for skilled workers). Shampoo, detergent (including for laundry), and washing-up liquid are no longer available in the market. As a result, community kitchens cannot wash kitchen pots properly, cleaning shelters where thousands of people live is impossible, and families cannot wash their few remaining clothes, vegetables and cooking utensils and cannot shower. Even worse, health care facilities struggle to find the minimum cleaning materials to protect patients, staff, and carers from infections.”

The WASH and Health clusters ask “responding agencies and/or the private sector to supply critical hygiene items in the Gaza Strip:

- 550 tons of soap<sup>1</sup> per month: Approximately 5,000,000 bars of 110gr, i.e. 695 pallets per month, or 24 pallets per day.
- 500,000 bottles of shampoo (700 ml) per month: 420 pallets, equivalent to 14 pallets per day.
- 500,000 bottles of washing-up liquid (675 ml) per month: 410 pallets, equivalent to 14 pallets per day.
- 500,000 bottles of laundry detergent or powder (1 kg) per month: 410 pallets, equivalent to 14 pallets per day.
- 100,000 bottles of cleaning detergent (1 l) per month: 410 pallets, equivalent to 14 pallets per day.

[...] Safe access to commercial goods: The WASH and Health Clusters calls for a minimum of 5 trucks per day of commercial vendors with critical hygiene items including soap and basic hygiene supplies to enter Gaza, both in the South and the North. [...]”

Source: WASH Cluster in collaboration with the occupied Palestinian Territory Health Cluster, ‘[Urgent Hygiene Crisis: Combatting Diarrhea and Skin Infections in Gaza](#)’, 13 September 2024

OCHA Occupied Palestinian Territory reported that Israeli forces have made convoys “wait at holding points before approaching checkpoints, often for hours, leaving them exposed in high-risk environments”. This has led to humanitarian supplies, including hygiene items, being intercepted by criminals:

“On 5 August, a convoy of two trucks delivering essential commodities to the north was attacked by crowds just 15 minutes after arriving at the holding point, resulting in the loss of all the goods intended to support vulnerable

people in the north. Similarly, the movement of humanitarian goods is restricted to only one route inside Gaza from Karem Shalom, making it an easy target for criminal elements. Hygiene items such as soap, diapers and food parcels were among the humanitarian supplies that were intercepted by criminal elements before they could reach the affected communities.”

Source: OCHA Occupied Palestinian Territory, [‘Humanitarian Access Snapshot – Gaza Strip | August 2024’](#), 20 September 2024

“Considering the terrible hygiene and sanitation situation, we need to be able to bring in soap, and shampoo at scale, especially by the commercial trucks.”

Source: UNICEF, [‘UNICEF Deputy Executive Director Ted Chaiban media briefing on mission to Israel, the Gaza Strip and the West Bank’ Opening Remarks as Delivered](#), 19 September 2024

UNFPA reported on the impact of evacuation orders on women and girls, including risks due to lack of hygiene products:

“Women and girls are at heightened risk of reproductive and urinary tract infections due to the lack of menstrual hygiene products and proper sanitation.”

Source: UNFPA, [‘The devastating impact of mass evacuation orders in Gaza on women and girls’](#), 24 August 2024

UNFPA reported that hygiene items were being delivered in Gaza however it is unclear when that particular statement on its website was last updated (see source above):

“Life-saving medicines and essential hygiene supplies – including soap and sanitary pads – have been delivered to hospitals, health facilities and displaced women and girls since the war began.”

Source: UNFPA, [‘Occupied Palestinian Territory’](#), Updated 3 September 2024

### 2.1.5 Subsistence (material poverty)

The UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD) published a report which described the economic devastation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory following the situation in Gaza. There is inflation, rising unemployment in Gaza, and lowering incomes which have left Palestinians in poverty. By early 2024, between 80 to 96 per cent of Gaza’s agricultural assets and food production were reduced, increasing food insecurity. The private sector has 82% of businesses damaged or destroyed. Gaza’s GDP dropped by 81% in the last quarter of 2023, resulting in a 22% annual contraction. By mid-2024, Gaza’s economy had shrunk to less than one-sixth of its 2022 size. Two-thirds of pre-October jobs (201,000) were lost by January 2024:

- “The combined impact of the military operation in Gaza and its repercussions in the West Bank delivered an unparalleled shock that overwhelmed the Palestinian economy across the occupied Territory, including East Jerusalem.”
- “By early 2024, between 80% to 96% of Gaza’s agricultural assets—including irrigation systems, livestock farms, orchards, machinery, and storage facilities— had been decimated, crippling the region’s food production capacity and worsening already high levels of food insecurity. The destruction also hit the private sector hard, with 82% of businesses, a key driver of Gaza’s economy, damaged or destroyed. The damage to the productive base has continued to worsen as the military operation persists.”
- “Gaza’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP) plummeted by 81% in the last quarter of 2023, leading to a 22% contraction for the entire year. By mid-2024 Gaza’s economy had shrunk to less than one-sixth of its 2022 level.”
- “The situation in Gaza is particularly dire, with two-thirds of pre-war jobs—approximately 201,000 positions— lost by January 2024. This has further worsened the already critical economic and humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip.”

- “Poverty has been widespread and growing in recent years. By 2022, one-third of the Palestinian population (1.84 million people) was food insecure (lacking consistent access to sufficient and nutritious food), or severely food insecure, and 31.1 per cent lived in poverty. Before October 2023, 80% of Gaza’s population depended on international assistance. Currently, poverty affects nearly the entire population of Gaza and is rising rapidly in the West Bank.”

Source: UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD), '[Economic crisis worsens in occupied Palestinian territory amid ongoing Gaza conflict](#)' (Press Release, For use of information media- Not an official record), 12 September 2024

The World Food Programme (WFP) reported that it was testing a cash assistance programme in Central Gaza:

“Given the high prices of food as a result of the war, WFP is testing out a cash assistance programme in the Deir Al Balah area in the central Gaza that will enable people to buy the food that meets their families’ basic needs while injecting liquidity into Gaza’s battered economy at the same time.”

Source: World Food Programme (WFP), '[Food operations in Gaza face growing challenges as ongoing conflict keeps hunger needs high](#)', 26 August 2024

## 2.2 Applicable vulnerability

### 2.2.1 Children

In relation to access and availability to education, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) entity ‘OCHA Occupied Palestinian Territory’ stated that as of 23 September 2024:

“Humanitarian efforts to establish 215 temporary learning Sites for more than 30,000 children are underway as schools continue to be attacked.”

Source: OCHA Occupied Palestinian Territory, '[Humanitarian Situation Update #221 | Gaza Strip](#)', 23 September 2024

According to Defence for Children International-Palestine (DCIP) research, including interviews with two families in Gaza, Israeli forces used Palestinian children as human shields during the siege of Al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza City in April 2024.

“Israeli forces used Palestinian children as human shields during the siege of Al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza City in April. Defense for Children International - Palestine field researchers in Gaza spoke with two Palestinian families who, along with their young children, were forced to walk alongside Israeli tanks as Israeli forces besieged Al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza City. Israeli forces have regularly used Palestinian children as human shields during the genocide in Gaza, according to documentation collected by DCIP. On April 18, Israeli forces surrounded the area near Al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza City with tanks, military bulldozers, and ground forces. The tanks fired toward a building opposite the hospital, where Ahed and Taghrid A. were sheltering with their five children: Tala, 12, Ahmed 11, Yazan eight, and twins Amir and Jude, one. Ahed and Taghrid raised white flags and shouted, “Civilians, civilians!””

Source: Defence for Children International-Palestine (DCIP), '[Israeli forces use Palestinian children as human shields during siege of hospital](#)', 23 September 2024

On 21 August 2024, the Defence for Children International- Palestine (DCIP) published reports by children who spoke to DCIP about an Israeli military incursion into the Al-Tuffah area of Gaza City on 27 December 2023. DCIP stated “Israeli forces are systematically detaining and torturing Palestinian children in the Gaza Strip, including using some as human shields”:

“During an Israeli military incursion into the Al-Tuffah area of Gaza City on December 27, 2023, Israeli forces detained at least eight Palestinian children and used several as human shields, according to documentation

collected by Defense for Children International – Palestine. Israeli forces detained around 50 Palestinians, including brothers 13-year-old Abdullah H. and 11-year-old Abdulrahman H. as well as 12-year-old Karim S. Israeli soldiers forced them to take off their clothes and bound their hands before forcing them to walk in front of Israeli tanks. [...] During the same incursion into the Al-Tuffah neighborhood, Israeli forces detained at least five other Palestinian children, according to documentation collected by DCIP.”

*For detailed accounts from the children consulted by DCIP please see the source.*

Source: Defence for Children International-Palestine (DCIP), [“They were trying to exterminate us”: Palestinian children in Gaza tortured by Israeli military](#), 21 August 2024

In relation to hospitals and medical treatment for children, UNICEF’s Deputy Executive Director Ted Chaiban provided the following statement, after visiting Gaza in September 2024:

- “I went to Kamal Adwan Hospital, in the north of the Gaza Strip. This is the only remaining pediatric unit in the area. I visited the pediatric intensive care unit and I saw a tiny baby, Sham, only a few months old, who had been heavily hit by shrapnel. Her mother was the only survivor of the strike that struck her. She was a striking reminder of the thousands and thousands of children who have been killed and injured in the Gaza Strip in the past 11 months.
- “I also met with 7-month-old Farah who suffers from severe acute malnutrition and respiratory infection as well as many children suffering from leukemia and other types of cancer diseases that require their medical evacuation. If we don’t evacuate them quickly, they will not make it. We will make all efforts with our colleagues in WHO to get these children out for treatment.”
- “[...] we need more medical evacuations for children and their guardians whose lives can be saved only with a medical treatment abroad. And we need more medical supplies and medical consumable like antibiotics for skin diseases, equipment for neonatal units, syringes and bandages for surgery rooms [...].”

Source: UNICEF, [‘UNICEF Deputy Executive Director Ted Chaiban media briefing on mission to Israel, the Gaza Strip and the West Bank’ Opening Remarks as Delivered](#), 19 September 2024

Defence for Children International- Palestine (DCIP) published a report on children facing health issues in the Gaza strip, and the lack of the necessary medications and medical staff in crowded hospitals. The report is dated 3 September 2024 (see the section on health):

“Palestinians in the Gaza Strip have recently witnessed an alarming outbreak of diseases among the population, mostly children, as a result of the extremely harsh conditions they live in, specifically in the crowded displacement camps that house hundreds of thousands of Palestinians. [...]

Source: Defence for Children International-Palestine (DCIP), [“Covered in blisters”: Chickenpox and other skin diseases spread among Palestinian children in Gaza amid Israeli genocide](#), 5 September 2024

Due to the escalation of attacks by Israeli forces on shelters and schools organisations such as Médecins du Monde and War Child had “to pause services such as medical and psychosocial support and education activities for children at a time when 17,000 children are estimated to be unaccompanied.”

Source: Anera, [‘Gaza Humanitarian Access Snapshot #4: 13 – 26 August 2024’](#), 28 August 2024



### 2.2.2 Person with specific essential needs (for reasons other than age)

Please see the Section ["2.1.2 Health" on page 19](#) and refer to ["\(i\) Health of women and girls" on page 22](#).

**Women and girls:** The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations sexual and reproductive health agency, stated that in Gaza there is a “catastrophic toll on women and girls, who continue to experience trauma, repeated displacement and fear. The lack of access to adequate food, clean water, sanitation and health care, in addition to a lack of waste management, are trapping people in a vicious cycle of suffering, as malnutrition continues to increase vulnerability to disease and infection.” In particular, “Pregnant and breastfeeding women – and their newborns – are particularly vulnerable”:

“Around 1.9 million people – nine in 10 Gazans – have been displaced at least once. An estimated 43,580 are pregnant women. Each evacuation order upends lives, and in no place can survival be guaranteed. The upheaval also makes it more difficult for women and girls to access essential maternal health and protection services. [...] To support the women and girls of Gaza, UNFPA and partners have delivered six mobile maternity units, equipped to provide emergency obstetric care. Life-saving medicines and essential hygiene supplies – including soap and sanitary pads – have been delivered to hospitals, health facilities and displaced women and girls since the war began. In the West Bank, UNFPA is supporting services in six safe spaces and deploying mobile clinics to provide reproductive health services.”

Source: UNFPA, [‘Occupied Palestinian Territory’](#), Last updated 3 September 2024

UNFPA also reported that “mass evacuation orders issued by the Israeli military have become an ongoing daily routine, uprooting nearly 90 percent of Gaza’s residents since October 2023.” In particular, “Women and girls, including pregnant and lactating women and adolescent girls, are among the most vulnerable, facing unprecedented challenges to their health and safety.”

UNFPA documented the “strain of evacuation orders on maternal health and gender-based violence services”. According to the source:

“The continuous displacement has had a devastating impact on maternal health services in Gaza. At least 17 health facilities, including five primary healthcare centers and nine medical points, have been disrupted by recent evacuation orders. This is particularly alarming given that more than half a million are women of reproductive age, of whom an estimated 50,000 are pregnant. [...] The overcrowding in displacement sites, combined with severe shortages of water and sanitation services, has created a breeding ground for disease. Women and girls are at heightened risk of reproductive and urinary tract infections due to the lack of menstrual hygiene products and proper sanitation.”

“The heart is fatigued, the will is broken, and the soul no longer desires anything,” [a GBV Sub-Cluster member, who has been displaced with her children and sick husband for the seventh time.]

Source: UNFPA, [‘The devastating impact of mass evacuation orders in Gaza on women and girls’](#), 24 August 2024

**Gender-based survivors (GBV):** In September 2024, a report covers the impact of evacuation orders on people facing gender-based violence:

“Multiple Israeli-issued evacuation orders in recent months have delayed or interrupted support to people facing gender-based violence (GBV), including medical care to GBV survivors, by forcing the closure or relocation of service delivery points.”

Source: OCHA Occupied Palestinian Territory, [‘Humanitarian Situation Update #218 | Gaza Strip’](#), 16 September 2024

## 2.3 Minimum security conditions to any stateless person of Palestinian origin

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) entity ‘OCHA Occupied Palestinian Territory’ reported on the Gaza Strip and stated that **as of 18 September 2024 there were 41,272 reported fatalities and 95,551 reported injuries**. The source noted:

“Figures that are yet-to-be verified by the UN are attributed to their source. Casualty numbers have been provided by the Ministry of Health (MoH) and the Israeli authorities. The fatality breakdowns currently cited are those that the MoH in Gaza has fully identified as of 31 August out of the higher number of casualties they report. The latest casualty updates are also available on the [Health Cluster’s Unified Dashboard](#).”

Source: OCHA Occupied Palestinian Territory, ‘[Reported Impact Snapshot | Gaza Strip](#)’, 18 September 2024 at 15:00

On 3 September 2024, Reuters reported on the security situation in Gaza:

“Israeli forces killed at least 35 Palestinians across Gaza on Tuesday as they battled Hamas-led militants, Palestinian officials said, but brief pauses in fighting allowed medics to conduct a third day of polio vaccinations for children. Among those killed were four women in the southern city of Rafah and eight people near a hospital in Gaza City in the north, the Palestinian Civil Emergency Service said.”

Source: Reuters, ‘[Israeli attacks in Gaza kill 35 Palestinians but pauses allow third day of polio vaccinations](#)’, 3 September 2024

### Humanitarian developments during September 2024

In its update dated 23 September 2024, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) entity ‘OCHA Occupied Palestinian Territory’ reported on humanitarian developments in Gaza:

- Israeli bombardment from the air and land continues to be reported across the Gaza Strip, resulting in further civilian casualties, displacement, and destruction of houses and other civilian infrastructure. Ground operations, particularly in Beit Hanoun, southwest Gaza city, eastern Khan Younis and Deir al Balah, and east and south Rafah, with heavy fighting, also continue to be reported.
- Between the afternoons of 18 and 22 September, according to the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza, 158 Palestinians were killed and 267 were injured. Between 7 October 2023 and 22 September 2024, at least 41,431 Palestinians were killed and 95,818 were injured, according to MoH in Gaza.
- The following are some of the deadly incidents reported between 19 and 20 September:
  - On 19 September, seven Palestinians, including two women, were reportedly killed and others injured when a residential building was hit in the vicinity of At Tawba Mosque in Ad Daraj area, Gaza city.
  - On 20 September, six Palestinians, including four women, were reportedly killed and others injured when a residential building was hit in the vicinity of Municipality of Gaza Park in Gaza city.
  - On 20 September, eight Palestinians, including two boys, one girl, and two women, were reportedly killed and others injured when a chalet was hit in western An Nuseirat, in Deir al Balah.
  - On 20 September, six Palestinians, including at least one woman, were reportedly killed and others injured when an apartment was hit in Batn Al Samin area, south of Khan Younis.
  - On 20 September, 13 Palestinians, including three women and three children, were reportedly killed and others injured when a house was hit in north Rafah.
- Between the afternoons of 20 and 23 September, no Israeli soldiers were reportedly killed in Gaza, according to the Israeli military. Between 7 October 2023 and 23 September 2024, according to the Israeli military and official Israeli sources cited in the media, more than 1,546 Israelis and foreign nationals were killed, the majority on 7

October and its immediate aftermath. The figure includes 346 soldiers killed in Gaza or along the border in Israel since the beginning of the ground operation. In addition, 2,287 Israeli soldiers were reported injured since the beginning of the ground operation.

Source: OCHA Occupied Palestinian Territory, '[Humanitarian Situation Update #221 | Gaza Strip](#)', 23 September 2024

UNRWA published information on the Gaza strip “from 20-23 September 2024, valid as of 23 September 2024 at 22:30 Days 351-354 of Hostilities”:

**“Ongoing strikes by Israeli Security Forces (ISF) continue, with aerial, land and maritime bombardments across the Gaza Strip, resulting in civilian casualties, displacement and the destruction of residential structures and public infrastructure.”**

Source: UNRWA, '[UNRWA Situation Report #139 on the situation in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem](#)', 23 September 2024

Humanitarian developments between 15 and 19 September 2024, and published on 20 September 2024 by OCHA:

- Israeli bombardment from the air and land continues to be reported across the Gaza Strip, resulting in further civilian casualties, displacement, and destruction of houses and other civilian infrastructure. Ground operations, particularly in Beit Hanoun, southwest Gaza city, eastern Khan Younis and Deir al Balah, and east as well as south Rafah, with heavy fighting, also continue to be reported, alongside Palestinian rocket fire at Israel. [...]
- The following are some of the deadly incidents reported between 15 and 19 September:
  - On 15 September, at least five Palestinians, including three women, were reportedly killed and others injured when they were hit on Salah Ad Deen Street in Az Zaytoun, in Gaza city.
  - On 15 September, six Palestinians, including one woman and two children, were reportedly killed and others injured when a residential building was hit in Az Zaytoun area, in Gaza city.
  - On 16 September, nine Palestinians, including four woman and a girl, were reportedly killed and 15 others injured when a house was hit in An Nuseirat, in Deir al Balah.
  - On 16 September, six Palestinians, including a girl, a boy, and four men, were reportedly killed and others injured when an IDP tent was hit next to a makeshift bakery in As Sumoud Camp in Al Mawasi area, southwestern Khan Younis.
  - On 17 September, five Palestinians were reportedly killed when houses were hit in east Al Bureij Camp, in Deir al Balah, according to the Palestinian Civil Defense (PCD). PCD stated that they received distress calls from trapped and injured people, but its crew was forced to withdraw after they were struck, and one crew member was injured. On 18 September, the PCD stated that 12 bodies were retrieved from under the rubble of the houses.
  - On 18 September, at least seven Palestinians, including three children and a woman, were reportedly killed and others injured when a house was hit in Qizan An Najjar, south of Khan Younis.
  - On 18 September, eight Palestinians including at least four children, and two women were reportedly killed and others injured when Ibn Haytham School (which was sheltering IDPs), was hit in Ash Shuja'iyeh area, Gaza city.
  - On 19 September, at least five Palestinians were reportedly killed and others injured when a residential building was hit on Al Jarjeer Street in Jabalya, in Gaza North.
- Between the afternoons of 16 and 20 September, four Israeli soldiers were reportedly killed in Gaza, according to the Israeli military. Between 7 October 2023 and 20 September 2024, according to the Israeli military and official Israeli sources cited in the media, more than 1,546 Israelis and foreign nationals were killed, the majority on 7

October and its immediate aftermath. The figure includes 346 soldiers killed in Gaza or along the border in Israel since the beginning of the ground operation. In addition, 2,284 Israeli soldiers were reported injured since the beginning of the ground operation.

Source: OCHA Occupied Palestinian Territory, '[Humanitarian Situation Update #220 | Gaza Strip](#)', 20 September 2024

Humanitarian developments between 12 and 16 September 2024, and published on 16 September 2024 by OCHA:

- Israeli bombardment from the air and land continues to be reported across the Gaza Strip, resulting in further civilian casualties, displacement, and destruction of houses and other civilian infrastructure. Ground operations, particularly in Beit Hanoun, southwest Gaza city, eastern Khan Younis and Deir al Balah, and east as well as south Rafah, with heavy fighting, also continue to be reported, alongside Palestinian rocket fire at Israel.
- Between the afternoons of 12 and 16 September, according to the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza, 108 Palestinians were killed and 288 were injured. Between 7 October 2023 and 16 September 2024, at least 41,226 Palestinians were killed and 95,413 were injured, according to MoH in Gaza. The MoH documents the full identification details of casualties and has recently published the breakdown of 34,344 out of 40,738 fatalities as of 31 August for whom full details have been documented by MoH (also available on the Health Cluster's Unified Dashboard here); according to MoH, these reportedly include 11,355 children, 6,297 women, 2,955 elderly, and 13,737 men. The documentation process is ongoing by the MoH.
- The following are some of the deadly incidents reported between 12 and 14 September:
  - On 12 September, six Palestinians, including four women, a girl, and a boy, were reportedly killed and others injured when a house was hit in northern An Nuseirat, in Deir al Balah.
  - On 12 September, four Palestinian men were reportedly killed and others injured when a house was hit near the European Hospital in eastern Khan Younis.
  - On 13 September, five Palestinians, including two men, one woman and two children were reportedly killed and others injured when a house was hit in Al Mawasi area, in western Rafah.
  - On 14 September, ten Palestinians, including three children and a woman, were reportedly killed and others injured when a house was hit near Ash Shuja'iyeh School in At Tuffah area, northeast of Gaza city.
  - On 14 September, five Palestinians were reportedly killed and others injured when a fuel-filling facility was reportedly hit near Dar al Arkam school in An Nasr area northwest of Gaza city.
- Between the afternoons of 13 and 16 September, no Israeli soldiers were reportedly killed in Gaza, according to the Israeli military. Between 7 October 2023 and 16 September 2024, according to the Israeli military and official Israeli sources cited in the media, more than 1,542 Israelis and foreign nationals were killed, the majority on 7 October and its immediate aftermath. The figure includes 342 soldiers killed in Gaza or along the border in Israel since the beginning of the ground operation. In addition, 2,281 Israeli soldiers were reported injured since the beginning of the ground operation.

Source: OCHA Occupied Palestinian Territory, '[Humanitarian Situation Update #218 | Gaza Strip](#)', 16 September 2024

The OCHA snapshot published on 11 September is not included in this report as there may be figures that are yet-to-be verified by the UN are attributed to their source. Casualty numbers have been provided by the Ministry of Health (MoH) and the Israeli authorities. The fatality breakdowns currently cited are those that the MoH in Gaza has fully identified as of 1 August out of the higher number of casualties they report. The latest casualty updates are also available on the Health Cluster's [Unified Dashboard](#). See the source data on the [OCHA's website](#).

Humanitarian developments between 5 and 9 September 2024, and published on 9 September 2024 by OCHA:

- Israeli bombardment from the air and land continues to be reported across the Gaza Strip, resulting in further civilian casualties, displacement, and destruction of houses and other civilian infrastructure. Ground operations, particularly in Beit Hanoun, southwest Gaza city, eastern Khan Younis and Deir al Balah, and east as well as south Rafah, with heavy fighting, also continue to be reported, alongside Palestinian rocket fire at Israel.
- Between the afternoons of 5 and 8 September, according to the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza, 94 Palestinians were killed and 307 were injured. Between 7 October 2023 and 8 September 2024, at least 40,972 Palestinians were killed and 94,761 were injured, according to MoH in Gaza.
- The following are some of the deadly incidents reported between 6 and 8 September:
  - On 6 September, six Palestinians, including four women, were reportedly killed and five others injured when a residential building was hit near Bader Mosque in Az Zaytoun area, in Gaza city.
  - On 6 September, seven Palestinians were reportedly killed when a house was hit in An Nuseirat Refugee Camp in northern Deir al Balah.
  - On 6 September, five Palestinians were killed, including two women and two unidentified corpses recovered in pieces, and at least 10 others were injured when an apartment was hit in Al Yarmouk street, in central Khan Younis.
  - On 7 September, five Palestinians, including two children and two women, were reportedly killed, and others injured, when a house was hit in Al Bureij Refugee Camp in northern Deir al Balah.
  - On 7 September, at least eight Palestinians, including a boy, were reportedly killed and others injured in western An Nuseirat Refugee Camp, in northern Deir al Balah.
  - On 7 September, six Palestinians, including two children and three women, were reportedly killed and others injured when a house was hit near the entrance of Al Bureij refugee Camp, in northern Deir al Balah.
  - On 8 September, five Palestinians including the Deputy Director for the Civil Defence (PCD) were reportedly killed and others injured when their house was hit in Jabalya. According to the PCD, the number of PCD staff killed so far has risen to 83.
- Between the afternoons of 6 and 9 September, no Israeli soldiers were reportedly killed in Gaza, according to the Israeli military. Between 7 October 2023 and 9 September 2024, according to the Israeli military and official Israeli sources cited in the media, more than 1,540 Israelis and foreign nationals were killed, the majority on 7 October and its immediate aftermath. The figure includes 340 soldiers killed in Gaza or along the border in Israel since the beginning of the ground operation. In addition, 2,271 Israeli soldiers were reported injured since the beginning of the ground operation.

Source: OCHA Occupied Palestinian Territory, '[Humanitarian Situation Update #215 | Gaza Strip](#)', 9 September 2024

On 12 September 2023, the Inter Press Service reported on an airstrike in Al-Mawasi displacement camp in Gaza:

**“On Tuesday, an airstrike was carried out in Al-Mawasi, on a displacement camp situated on the Gaza Strip. According to the Gaza Civil Defense Agency, 40 people were killed and over 60 were injured.”**

The Institute for the Study of War compiled sources reporting:

**“The IDF conducted two airstrikes on September 11 targeting a Hamas headquarters in al Jaouni school in the Nuseirat refugee camp.”**

Source: Institute for the Study of War, '[IRAN UPDATE, SEPTEMBER 12, 2024](#)', 12 September 2024

According to Defence for Children International-Palestine (DCIP) research, including interviews with two families in Gaza, Israeli forces used Palestinian children as human shields during the siege of Al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza City in April 2024.



“Israeli forces used Palestinian children as human shields during the siege of Al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza City in April. Defense for Children International - Palestine field researchers in Gaza spoke with two Palestinian families who, along with their young children, were forced to walk alongside Israeli tanks as Israeli forces besieged Al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza City. Israeli forces have regularly used Palestinian children as human shields during the genocide in Gaza, according to documentation collected by DCIP. On April 18, Israeli forces surrounded the area near Al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza City with tanks, military bulldozers, and ground forces. The tanks fired toward a building opposite the hospital, where Ahed and Taghrid A. were sheltering with their five children: Tala, 12, Ahmed 11, Yazan eight, and twins Amir and Jude, one. Ahed and Taghrid raised white flags and shouted, “Civilians, civilians!””

Source: Defence for Children International-Palestine (DCIP), ‘[Israeli forces use Palestinian children as human shields during siege of hospital](#)’, 23 September 2024

The OCHA snapshot published on 4 September is not included in this report as there may be figures that are yet-to-be verified by the UN are attributed to their source. Casualty numbers have been provided by the Ministry of Health (MoH) and the Israeli authorities. The fatality breakdowns currently cited are those that the MoH in Gaza has fully identified as of 1 August out of the higher number of casualties they report. The latest casualty updates are also available on the Health Cluster’s [Unified Dashboard](#). See the source data on the [OCHA website](#).

Humanitarian developments between 2 and 6 September 2024, and published on 6 September 2024 by OCHA:

- Israeli bombardment from the air and land continues to be reported across the Gaza Strip, resulting in further civilian casualties, displacement, and destruction of houses and other civilian infrastructure. Ground operations, particularly in Beit Hanoun, southwest Gaza city, eastern Khan Younis and Deir al Balah and east as well as south Rafah are also reported.\*
- Between the afternoons of 2 and 5 September, according to the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza, 110 Palestinians were killed and 230 were injured. Between 7 October 2023 and 5 September 2024, at least 40,878 Palestinians were killed and 94,454 were injured, according to MoH in Gaza.
- The following are some of the deadly incidents reported between 1 and 5 September:
  - On 1 September, six Palestinians were reportedly killed and others injured in an airstrike in Beit Lahiya, in north Gaza.
  - On 2 September, eight Palestinians were reportedly killed and others injured when a group of Palestinians was hit in front of Al Fakhoura School’s main gate in Jabalya Camp, in north Gaza.
  - On 3 September, nine Palestinians, including at least one woman and five children, were reportedly killed and others injured when a residential building was hit in central Gaza city.
  - On 3 September, seven Palestinians were reportedly killed and others injured when a children’s nursery was hit in western Jabalya, north Gaza.
  - On 4 September, six Palestinians were reportedly killed and eight others injured near At Taalim Roundabout in Beit Lahiya, in north Gaza.
  - On 4 September, six Palestinian men were reportedly killed and others injured in Ash Sheikh Zaied buildings, north Gaza city.
  - On 4 September, five Palestinians, including two children, were reportedly killed and others injured when a house was hit in Ash Sheikh Redwan neighborhood in Gaza city.
  - On 5 September, five Palestinians were reportedly killed, and 15 others were injured, including children, when internally displaced people’s (IDP) tents were hit near the external clinics of Al Aqsa Hospital, in eastern Deir al Balah. The strike resulted in the destruction and burning of many tents located in the area.
- Between the afternoons of 2 and 6 September, no Israeli soldiers were reported killed in Gaza, according to the Israeli military. Between 7 October 2023 and 6 September 2024, according to the Israeli military and official Israeli

sources cited in the media, more than 1,540 Israelis and foreign nationals were killed, the majority on 7 October and its immediate aftermath. The figure includes 340 soldiers killed in Gaza or along the border in Israel since the beginning of the ground operation. In addition, 2,270 Israeli soldiers were reported injured since the beginning of the ground operation.

Source: OCHA Occupied Palestinian Territory, '[Humanitarian Situation Update #214 | Gaza Strip](#)', 6 September 2024

The (German federal authority) Federal Office for Migration and Refugees, also called Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge (BAMF), summarised the situation at the start of August 2024. This report provides the BAMF summary for background information as more up to date sources are listed above:

“The Hamas-led Ministry of Health stated on 04.08.24 that more than 39,538 Palestinians had been killed and 91,389 others wounded in the Gaza Strip since the start of the war. The ministry does not officially distinguish between combatants and civilians. On 02.08.24, the Israeli military reported a total of 329 military personnel killed and 2,176 wounded since the start of the ground offensive. It is said that Hamas is still holding 115 hostages in the Gaza Strip, 41 of whom are now presumed dead. Four hostages were already held in Gaza before the war began. The fighting in the Gaza Strip continues.”

Source: Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF), '[Briefing Notes Group 62 – Information Centre for Asylum and Migration](#)', 5 August 2024

### 2.3.1 Risk of inhuman or degrading treatment

Israeli forces have arbitrarily detained Palestinian healthcare workers, reported Human Rights Watch in August 2024:

- “**Israeli** forces have arbitrarily detained Palestinian healthcare workers in Gaza since hostilities began in October 2023, deported them to detention facilities in Israel, and allegedly tortured and ill-treated them [...]”
- “Released doctors, nurses and paramedics described to Human Rights Watch their mistreatment in Israeli custody, including humiliation, beatings, forced stress positions, prolonged cuffing and blindfolding, and denial of medical care. They also reported torture, including rape and sexual abuse by Israeli forces, denial of medical care, and poor detention conditions for the general detainee population. [...]”
- “from March to June 2024” it “interviewed eight Palestinian healthcare workers who were taken by the Israeli military from Gaza between November and December 2023 and detained without charge for between seven days and five months. Six were detained at work following Israeli sieges of hospitals or during hospital evacuations that they said had been coordinated with the Israeli military. None of the healthcare workers said they were ever informed of the reason for their detention or charged with an offense. Human Rights Watch also spoke with seven people who witnessed Israeli soldiers detaining healthcare workers carrying out their duties.”

Human Rights Watch documented forms of treatment of healthcare workers. For individual and detailed accounts please see the primary source cited below:

- Humiliation, Ill-treatment, and Torture

“The healthcare workers interviewed all reported humiliation, ill-treatment, and torture, including being stripped and beaten, with prolonged painful stress positions, near-constant cuffing, and blindfolding. Some said they were threatened with sexual violence and by attack dogs.”

- Abuses During Deportation, Detention

“All eight men reported being forced to strip publicly immediately after being taken into custody and remain kneeling for extended periods, exposed to the cold, and at various times throughout their detention. Photographs and videos that Israeli soldiers [shared online](#) and that Reuters verified show Palestinian detainees unclothed or in

underwear. Publishing such images online is an **outrage on personal dignity** and posted sexualized images are a form of sexual violence, which are war crimes.”

- Abuses in Detention Facilities

“The healthcare workers said that Israeli authorities abused detainees at detention facilities inside Israel. Four said that when they arrived at detention facilities, the authorities forced them to wear adult diapers and denied them access to toilets.”

- Threats and Acts of Sexual Abuse

“Three healthcare workers said that Israeli authorities threatened them with sexual assault”

- Cruel, Inhuman, and Degrading Conditions

“All the healthcare workers described horrific conditions in detention.”

“Abed, the surgeon, said the food was “horrible” and inadequate, and that he lost 22 kilograms during a month and a half in detention. The bathrooms were “not even fit for animals.” The mattresses and blankets were thin, and the cold nights were “unbearable.” In the cells, water for toilets and for drinking was only available for one hour a day, with a “disgusting” stench emanating from the non-flushable toilets. “They gave us a bag for the garbage. We used to fill it with water and drink from it later. It smelled horrible but we had no choice,” Abed said.”

- Prolonged Cuffing and Blindfolding

“The healthcare workers said that they were cuffed almost constantly throughout their detention. They said Israeli authorities often ignored detainees who complained about the tightness of their cuffs or tightened their cuffs as punishment for complaining.”

In a public letter, an Israeli doctor working in the military field hospital at Sde Teiman wrote that in a single week, “two prisoners had their legs amputated due to handcuff injuries, which unfortunately is a routine event.”

- Medical Neglect

“The healthcare workers described medical neglect despite the detainees’ numerous requests and clear, urgent need for treatment for preexisting health conditions, or for injuries sustained during the hostilities in Gaza or from abuses in custody.”

- Use of Prisoner Functionaries

“Two healthcare workers detained in different facilities said Israeli military commanders tasked them to act as prisoner functionaries or Shawish (an Arabic slang term for “servant” or “subordinate”). The men said that shawish, who act as intermediaries between the guards and detainees, are the only detainees not constantly blindfolded, though their hands remain cuffed. The men prepared and distributed food, assisted detainees with eating or using the toilet, cleaned rooms, transferred detainees to interrogation, and provided basic medical care.”

*For detailed accounts of treatment from the healthcare workers please see the source.*

Source: Human Rights Watch, '[Israel: Palestinian Healthcare Workers Tortured](#)', 26 August 2024

On 21 August 2024, the Defence for Children International – Palestine (DCIP) published reports by children who spoke to DCIP about an Israeli military incursion into the Al-Tuffah area of Gaza City on 27 December 2023. DCIP stated “Israeli forces are systematically detaining and torturing Palestinian children in the Gaza Strip, including using some as human shields”:

“During an Israeli military incursion into the Al-Tuffah area of Gaza City on December 27, 2023, Israeli forces detained at least eight Palestinian children and used several as human shields, according to documentation collected by Defense for Children International - Palestine. Israeli forces detained around 50 Palestinians, including brothers 13-year-old Abdullah H. and 11-year-old Abdulrahman H. as well as 12-year-old Karim S. Israeli soldiers forced them to take off their clothes and bound their hands before forcing them to walk in front of Israeli tanks.

“They insulted us, slapped me on my face, and kicked me in my stomach and waist. I almost died from the beating,” Karim told DCIP. “Then they made us walk in front of bulldozers and tanks in the streets so that the resistance wouldn’t target them.”

“They released dogs on us to scare me, beat me on the head, and stripped me of my clothes,” Abdulrahman told DCIP. “The soldiers fired shots over our heads and insulted us. We sat in the middle of Al-Yarmouk Stadium all night with our heads between our legs, surrounded by dogs, soldiers, and tanks. Anyone who asked for water or needed to use the bathroom was beaten with rifles.”

*For detailed accounts from the children quoted above please see the source. Since 2000, the source has recorded at least 31 cases in which Palestinian children were utilised by Israeli forces as human shields.*

Source: Defence for Children International-Palestine (DCIP), [“They were trying to exterminate us”: Palestinian children in Gaza tortured by Israeli military](#), 21 August 2024

## 2.4 Proof a stateless person of Palestinian origin had habitual residence

Between July 2024 to September 2024, Asylos consulted organisations and lawyers representing stateless people of Palestinian origin seeking international protection in the United Kingdom in European Union Member States. The findings were that there are varying processes of obtaining proof that a person has or had habitual residence in any one sector of UNRWA’s areas of operation and/or was registered with UNRWA. These include:

- Contacting UNRWA directly
- Contacting a local UNHCR office
- Contacting (State of) Palestine Embassy or foreign consulate

UNRWA sets out the ways in which registration operates via the UN agency:

“During 1950-51, the Agency conducted a census of Palestine refugees in its fields of operation to rectify those records and delete persons ineligible for assistance. The census resulted in the registration of some 875,000 Palestine refugees. Since then, UNRWA has been updating files from voluntarily supplied documentation on the original refugees and their descendants through the male line.

UNRWA re-opened its new inscription process in 1992. Palestine refugees who were not registered in the early fifties can now apply for registration, provided that they approach any UNRWA registration office in person and are able to produce valid documentation proving their 1948 refugee status. Since 2006, husbands and descendants of registered refugee women, known as ‘married to non-refugee’ (MNR) family members, have also become eligible to be registered to receive UNRWA services.

Efforts to scan documents and create a computerized registration tool began in 1996. A web-based Refugee Registration Information System (RRIS) was introduced in 2010, and currently allows live updating of refugee information from over 60 registration offices Agency-wide. The RRIS has enhanced data accuracy, improved service delivery and provided an electronic storage to the millions of files that UNRWA safeguards and uses for its operations.

Since the 2015 migration crisis from the Near East to Europe and abroad, UNRWA has also been responding to an increasing number of requests from governmental authorities, UNHCR and other organizations to verify registration records of Palestine refugees seeking asylum outside its fields of operation. To safeguard confidentiality and privacy rights, these requests are only processed upon receipt of a signed copy of the Registration Verification Form by the person whose registration status is to be verified.

UNRWA has recently published a Registered Population Dashboard which displays the main demographic characteristics of its registered population using interactive charts and tables with quarterly data. The dashboard also includes a brief explanation about the voluntary nature of UNRWA registration and the operational definitions of Palestine refugees and other persons of concern.

In response to COVID-19, UNRWA launched an Online Registration Application which can be used by registered persons to submit a request for updating their registration information. It is said to be its “first step towards developing an integrated registration portal which will allow Palestine refugees to directly access their records and download electronic documents pertaining to their family history over the last 70 years”:

“Click here for the [Consolidated Eligibility and Registration Instructions \(CERI\)](#)

Click here for the [Verification of Registration Form](#). After you fill the form, send it to Show Email.

Click here for [UNRWA Registered Population Dashboard](#) for 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022.

Click here for [UNRWA Online Registration Application – Jordan; Gaza; West Bank; Syria; Lebanon](#).

Click here for [UNRWA Registration Verification Requests, Statistical Report.](#)”

Source: UNRWA, ‘[Eligibility and Registration](#)’, Undated, Last accessed 24 September 2024

In September 2024, Asylos received information from a lawyer working in the immigration sector in Europe. The lawyer was able to assist their clients and officially prove UNRWA registration in the following way:

The Family Registration eCard is an official proof of registration with UNRWA. It contains individual information for all family members who are registered with UNRWA, including their individual registration number, month and year of birth, sex, relation to the family, marital status, field of registration, place of origin, and registration category. This information is updated according to UNRWA records until the print date.

The Family Registration eCard also contains a QR code that Palestine refugees and other eligible persons can use before governmental authorities and international organisations for validation.

Source: UNRWA, [FAMILY REGISTRATION ECARD](#), Undated, Last accessed 24 September 2024; Source: Asylos correspondence with EU-based lawyer, 20 September 2024

Individual Reg. No.	Name	Date of Birth	Sex	Status	Marital Status	Field of Registration	Registration Field	Origin	Category
24020017	MOHAMMED ABU KHAYAL	12/01/1951	Male	Head of Family	Married	Jordan	Jordan	Jordan	BB
24020012	SAHAR ABU KHAYAL	01/02/1982	Female	Spouse	Married	Jordan	Jordan	Jordan	BB
24020018	MOHAMMED ABU KHAYAL	10/08/1981	Male	Spouse	Married	Jordan	Jordan	Jordan	BB
24020019	MOHAMMED ABU KHAYAL	01/08/1988	Male	Spouse	Married	Jordan	Jordan	Jordan	BB
24020020	SAHAR ABU KHAYAL	10/08/1987	Female	Spouse	Married	Jordan	Jordan	Jordan	BB



## Section 3 – Appendices

### 3.1 Legal context

#### 3.1.1 International law

##### The Geneva Convention

The Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, signed in Geneva on 28 July 1951 (*United Nations Treaty Series*, Vol. 189, p. 150, No 2545 (1954)), entered into force on 22 April 1954. It was supplemented and amended by the Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees, concluded in New York on 31 January 1967, which entered into force on 4 October 1967 ('the Geneva Convention').

Article 1(D) of the Geneva Convention states:

'This Convention shall not apply to persons who are at present receiving from organs or agencies of the United Nations other than the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [(‘the HCR’)] protection or assistance.

When such protection or assistance has ceased for any reason, without the position of such persons being definitively settled in accordance with the relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations, these persons shall *ipso facto* be entitled to the benefits of this Convention.'

#### 3.1.2 European Union law

##### Directive 2011/95

Recital 18 of Directive 2011/95 states:

'The “best interests of the child” should be a primary consideration of Member States when implementing this Directive, in line with the 1989 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. In assessing the best interests of the child, Member States should in particular take due account of the principle of family unity, the minor’s well-being and social development, safety and security considerations and the views of the minor in accordance with his or her age and maturity.'

Article 2 of that directive, entitled 'Definitions', provides:

'For the purposes of this Directive the following definitions shall apply:

[...]

(d) “refugee” means a third-country national who, owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership of a particular social group, is outside the country of nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself or herself of the protection of that country, or a stateless person, who, being outside of the country of former habitual residence for the same reasons as mentioned above, is unable or, owing to such fear, unwilling to return to it, and to whom Article 12 does not apply;...'

Entitled ‘Assessment of facts and circumstances’, Article 4 of that directive provides:

1. Member States may consider it the duty of the applicant to submit as soon as possible all the elements needed to substantiate the application for international protection. In cooperation with the applicant, it is the duty of the Member State to assess the relevant elements of the application.
2. The elements referred to in paragraph 1 consist of the applicant’s statements and all the documentation at the applicant’s disposal regarding the applicant’s age, background, including that of relevant relatives, identity, nationality(ies), country(ies) and place(s) of previous residence, previous asylum applications, travel routes, travel documents and the reasons for applying for international protection.
3. The assessment of an application for international protection is to be carried out on an individual basis and includes taking into account:
  - (a) all relevant facts as they relate to the country of origin at the time of taking a decision on the application, including laws and regulations of the country of origin and the manner in which they are applied;
  - (b) the relevant statements and documentation presented by the applicant including information on whether the applicant has been or may be subject to persecution or serious harm; ...’

Entitled ‘Exclusion’, Article 12 of the same directive is worded as follows:

1. A third-country national or a stateless person is excluded from being a refugee if:
  - (a) he or she falls within the scope of Article 1(D) of the Geneva Convention, relating to protection or assistance from organs or agencies of the United Nations other than the [HCR]. When such protection or assistance has ceased for any reason, without the position of such persons being definitely settled in accordance with the relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations, those persons shall ipso facto be entitled to the benefits of this Directive;
  - (b) he or she is recognised by the competent authorities of the country in which he or she has taken up residence as having the rights and obligations which are attached to the possession of the nationality of that country, or rights and obligations equivalent to those.
2. A third-country national or a stateless person is excluded from being a refugee where there are serious reasons for considering that:
  - (a) he or she has committed a crime against peace, a war crime, or a crime against humanity, as defined in the international instruments drawn up to make provision in respect of such crimes;
  - (b) he or she has committed a serious non-political crime outside the country of refuge prior to his or her admission as a refugee, which means the time of issuing a residence permit based on the granting of refugee status; particularly cruel actions, even if committed with an allegedly political objective, may be classified as serious non-political crimes;
  - (c) he or she has been guilty of acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations as set out in the Preamble and Articles 1 and 2 of the Charter of the United Nations.
3. Paragraph 2 applies to persons who incite or otherwise participate in the commission of the crimes or acts mentioned therein.’

Entitled ‘Serious harm’, Article 15 of Directive 2011/95 provides:

‘Serious harm consists of:

- (a) the death penalty or execution; or
- (b) torture or inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of an applicant in the country of origin; or
- (c) serious and individual threat to a civilian’s life or person by reason of indiscriminate violence in situations of international or internal armed conflict.’

Entitled ‘General rules’, Article 20 of the directive provides, in paragraph 3 thereof:

‘When implementing this Chapter, Member States shall take into account the specific situation of vulnerable persons such as minors, unaccompanied minors, disabled people, elderly people, pregnant women, single parents with minor children, victims of human trafficking, persons with mental disorders and persons who have been subjected to torture, rape or other serious forms of psychological, physical or sexual violence.’

16 Entitled ‘Protection from refoulement’, Article 21 of that directive provides, in paragraph 1 thereof:

‘Member States shall respect the principle of non-refoulement in accordance with their international obligations.’

### **Directive 2013/32**

17 Entitled ‘Definitions’, Article 2 of Directive 2013/32 provides:

‘For the purposes of this Directive:

- (e) “final decision” means a decision on whether the third-country national or stateless person be granted refugee or subsidiary protection status by virtue of Directive 2011/95/EU and which is no longer subject to a remedy within the framework of Chapter V of this Directive, irrespective of whether such remedy has the effect of allowing applicants to remain in the Member States concerned pending its outcome;

[...]

- (q) “subsequent application” means a further application for international protection made after a final decision has been taken on a previous application, including cases where the applicant has explicitly withdrawn his or her application and cases where the determining authority has rejected an application following its implicit withdrawal in accordance with Article 28(1).’

[...]

Entitled ‘Basic principles and guarantees’, Chapter II of that directive contains Articles 6 to 30 of the directive. Entitled ‘Requirements for the examination of applications’, Article 10 of that directive contains paragraph 3, which is worded as follows:

‘Member States shall ensure that decisions by the determining authority on applications for international protection are taken after an appropriate examination. To that end, Member States shall ensure that:

- (a) applications are examined and decisions are taken individually, objectively and impartially;

- (b) precise and up-to-date information is obtained from various sources, such as [the European Asylum Support Office ('the EASO')] and UNHCR and relevant international human rights organisations, as to the general situation prevailing in the countries of origin of applicants and, where necessary, in countries through which they have transited, and that such information is made available to the personnel responsible for examining applications and taking decisions;

[...]

Entitled 'Inadmissible applications', Article 33 of that directive provides, in paragraph 2(d) thereof:

'Member States may consider an application for international protection as inadmissible only if:

[...]

- (d) the application is a subsequent application, where no new elements or findings relating to the examination of whether the applicant qualifies as a beneficiary of international protection by virtue of Directive [2011/95] have arisen or have been presented by the applicant'.

Entitled 'Subsequent application', Article 40 of the same directive provides:

'1. Where a person who has applied for international protection in a Member State makes further representations or a subsequent application in the same Member State, that Member State shall examine these further representations or the elements of the subsequent application in the framework of the examination of the previous application or in the framework of the examination of the decision under review or appeal, in so far as the competent authorities can take into account and consider all the elements underlying the further representations or subsequent application within this framework.

2. For the purpose of taking a decision on the admissibility of an application for international protection pursuant to Article 33(2)(d), a subsequent application for international protection shall be subject first to a preliminary examination as to whether new elements or findings have arisen or have been presented by the applicant which relate to the examination of whether the applicant qualifies as a beneficiary of international protection by virtue of Directive [2011/95].

3. If the preliminary examination referred to in paragraph 2 concludes that new elements or findings have arisen or been presented by the applicant which significantly add to the likelihood of the applicant qualifying as a beneficiary of international protection by virtue of Directive [2011/95], the application shall be further examined in conformity with Chapter II. Member States may also provide for other reasons for a subsequent application to be further examined.

[...]

Entitled 'The right to an effective remedy', Article 46 of Directive 2013/32 provides, in paragraph 3 thereof:

'In order to comply with paragraph 1, Member States shall ensure that an effective remedy provides for a full and ex nunc examination of both facts and points of law, including, where applicable, an examination of the international protection needs pursuant to Directive [2011/95], at least in appeals procedures before a court or tribunal of first instance.'

### 3.2 United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA)

The United Nations General Assembly Resolution 302 (IV) of 8 December 1949, concerning assistance to Palestine refugees, established the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East.

UNRWA's area of operations covers five sectors, namely the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria. UNRWA Headquarters are located in Amman and in Gaza. The Agency maintains a field office in each of its areas of operations- and liaison offices in New York, Washington, Brussels and Cairo. The Agency's senior-most official is Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini.

United Nations General Assembly Resolution 74/83 of 13 December 2019, concerning assistance to Palestine refugees, provides:

'The General Assembly, [...] Acknowledging the essential role that [UNRWA] has played for over 65 years since its establishment in ameliorating the plight of the Palestine refugees through the **provision of education, health, relief and social services and ongoing work in the areas of camp infrastructure, microfinance, protection and emergency assistance**, [...] Taking note also of the report of the Commissioner-General of 31 May 2019 submitted pursuant to paragraph 57 of the report of the Secretary-General, and expressing concern regarding the severe financial crisis of [UNRWA] and the negative implications for the continued delivery of core programmes to the Palestine refugees in all fields of operation, [...] Expressing grave concern at the especially difficult situation of the Palestine refugees under occupation, including with regard to their **safety, well-being and socioeconomic living conditions**, Expressing grave concern in particular at the grave humanitarian situation and socioeconomic conditions of the Palestine refugees in the Gaza Strip, and underlining the importance of **emergency and humanitarian assistance and urgent reconstruction efforts**, [...]

1. Notes with regret that repatriation or compensation of the refugees, as provided for in paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 194 (III) [of 11 December 1948, on the principles for achieving a final settlement and the return of Palestinian refugees to their homes], has not yet been effected, and that, therefore, the situation of the Palestine refugees continues to be a matter of grave concern and the Palestine refugees continue to require assistance to meet basic health, education and living needs;

[...]

3. Affirms the necessity for the continuation of the work of [UNRWA] and the importance of its unimpeded operation and its provision of services, including emergency assistance, for the well-being, protection and human development of the Palestine refugees and for the stability of the region, pending the just resolution of the question of the Palestine refugees;

4. Calls upon all donors to continue to strengthen their efforts to meet the anticipated needs of [UNRWA], including with regard to increased expenditures and needs arising from conflicts and instability in the region and the serious socioeconomic and humanitarian situation, particularly in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and those needs mentioned in recent emergency, recovery and reconstruction appeals and plans for the Gaza Strip and in the regional crisis response plans to address the situation of Palestine refugees in the Syrian Arab Republic and those Palestine refugees who have fled to countries in the region;

[...]

7. Decides to extend the mandate of [UNRWA] until 30 June 2023, without prejudice to the provisions of paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 194 (III) [of 11 December 1948, on the principles for achieving a final settlement and the return of Palestinian refugees to their homes].'



By Resolution 77/123 of the General Assembly of the United Nations of 12 December 2022, on the Assistance to Palestine refugees, the mandate of UNRWA was extended until 30 June 2026.

In the light of the mission entrusted to it, UNRWA must be regarded as an agency of the United Nations, separate from the HCR, providing protection and assistance within the meaning of Article 1(D) of the Geneva Convention.

## Section 4 – Country of Origin Information Sources

This section provides a list of sources reviewed for the production of this report. All sources were consulted in September 2024.

### 1. (International) governmental organisations

[Federal Office for Migration and Refugees -Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge \(BAMF\)](#)

[Khan Younis Municipality](#)

[US Department of State](#)

[Municipality of Gaza](#)

[Palestinian Ministry of Health – Gaza](#)

### 2. International organisations

[Action Against Hunger](#)

[ActionAid UK](#)

[Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association](#)

[Age International](#)

[Al Mezan Center for Human Rights](#)

[Al-dameer Association for Human Rights](#)

[Al-Haq Organization](#)

[Amnesty International](#)

[Amnesty International UK](#)

[Amos Trust](#)

[Anera](#)

[B'Tselem](#)

[CARE International UK](#)

[Christian Aid](#)

[CMWU Coastal Municipalities Water Utility](#)

[Community Action Center \(Al Quds University\)](#)

[Congressional Research Service](#)

[Council for Arab-British Understanding \(Caabu\)](#)

[Defence for Children International-Palestine \(DCIP\)](#)

[Embrace the Middle East](#)

[European Centre for the Responsibility to Protect](#)

[European Network on Statelessness](#)

[European Union Agency for Asylum - EUAA](#)

[FIDH – International Federation for Human Rights](#)

[Foundation for Access to Rights - FAR](#)

[Gender Action for Peace and Security \(GAPS\)](#)

[Greenpeace UK](#)

[Human Rights Watch](#)  
[Humanity & Inclusion UK](#)  
[Hurriyat - Center for Defense of Liberties and Civil Rights](#)  
[Institute for the Study of War](#)  
[International Rescue Committee UK](#)  
[Islamic Relief UK](#)  
[Jewish Network for Palestine](#)  
[Lawyers for Palestinian Human Rights](#)  
[Mercy Corps](#)  
[Military Court Watch](#)  
[Muwatin Institute for Democracy and Human Rights](#)  
[Norwegian Refugee Council](#)  
[OCHA Occupied Palestinian Territory](#)  
[Oxfam](#)  
[Palestine Jerusalem Legal Aid and Human Rights Center \(JLAC\)](#)  
[Palestinian Centre for Human Rights](#)  
[Plan International UK](#)  
[The Independent Commission for Human Rights \(Ombudsman Office\) \(NHRI of Palestine\)](#)  
[UN Trade and Development \(UNCTAD\)](#)  
[UN Women Regional Office for the Arab States](#)  
[UNICEF](#)  
[United Nations Population Fund \(UNFPA\)](#)  
[United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East \(UNRWA\)](#)  
[War on Want](#)  
[WASH Cluster](#)  
[World Food Programme \(WFP\)](#)  
[World Health Programme \(WHO\)](#)

### 3. Media

[Al Jazeera](#)  
[AP News](#)  
[IDFOnline \[X Account of Israel Defense Forces\]](#)  
[Inter Press Service](#)  
[Israel Hayom](#)  
[Middle East Eye](#)  
[Middle East Monitor](#)  
[Middle East News Agency \(MENA\)](#)  
[Reuters](#)  
[The New York Times](#)  
[The Times Israel](#)

## 4. Other

Avichay Adraee, Head of the Arab media division of the Israel Defense Force (IDF) Spokesperson's Unit

Ted Chaiban, Deputy Executive Director, UNICEF

Adele Khodr, UNICEF Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa, UNICEF

Dr Richard Peeperkorn, WHO Representative for the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt), WHO

Jean Gough, UNICEF Special Representative in the State of Palestine, UNICEF

Stephane Dujarric, Spokesperson for the UN Secretary-General, UN

## 5. Interviews

*Please note that these experts have not been vetted by us and each database/source will have its own vetting process.*

### EIN Experts Directory

The Electronic Immigration Network Directory of Experts gives access to detailed information from a wide variety of experts in a fully searchable database.

- Rights in Exile Programme's "[Country of Origin Information Experts database](#)"
- The Centre for Gender and Refugee Studies' [Expert Witness database](#) [requires registration]
- Country experts cited in relevant UK [country guidance determinations](#)
- Interlocutors cited in [EUAA COI products](#)
- Interlocutors cited in fact-finding mission (FFM) reports. These are published by a range of
- country of asylum/receiving country's governments. You can find them through a Google
- search or on [ecoi.net](#)
- Academics and/or (I)NGOs who may be cited in this COI compilation
- Ask an expert who you have worked with in the past to suggest other relevant individuals
- who may be in a position to comment
- Global Experts – [Global Experts](#) is a UN database of academics, analysts, former officials, faith leaders, civil society activists, private sector/business and media experts around the world. You can search for experts by area of expertise as well as by geographical area
- Expertise Finder – [Expertise Finder](#) is a directory of experts in a variety of subjects. Search by keywords, for instance country, to find experts and their contact details
- [SheSource](#) – Same concept as the two sources above, except that this website only lists female experts
- [Google Scholar](#) / [Microsoft Academic](#) – Google Scholar and Microsoft Academic are search engines for academic publications, although you will find media articles on there as well. On Google Scholar, clicking on an author's name will typically take you to his / her profile page. Contact details are not provided, but affiliation is; you can then search on his / her institution's website



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