

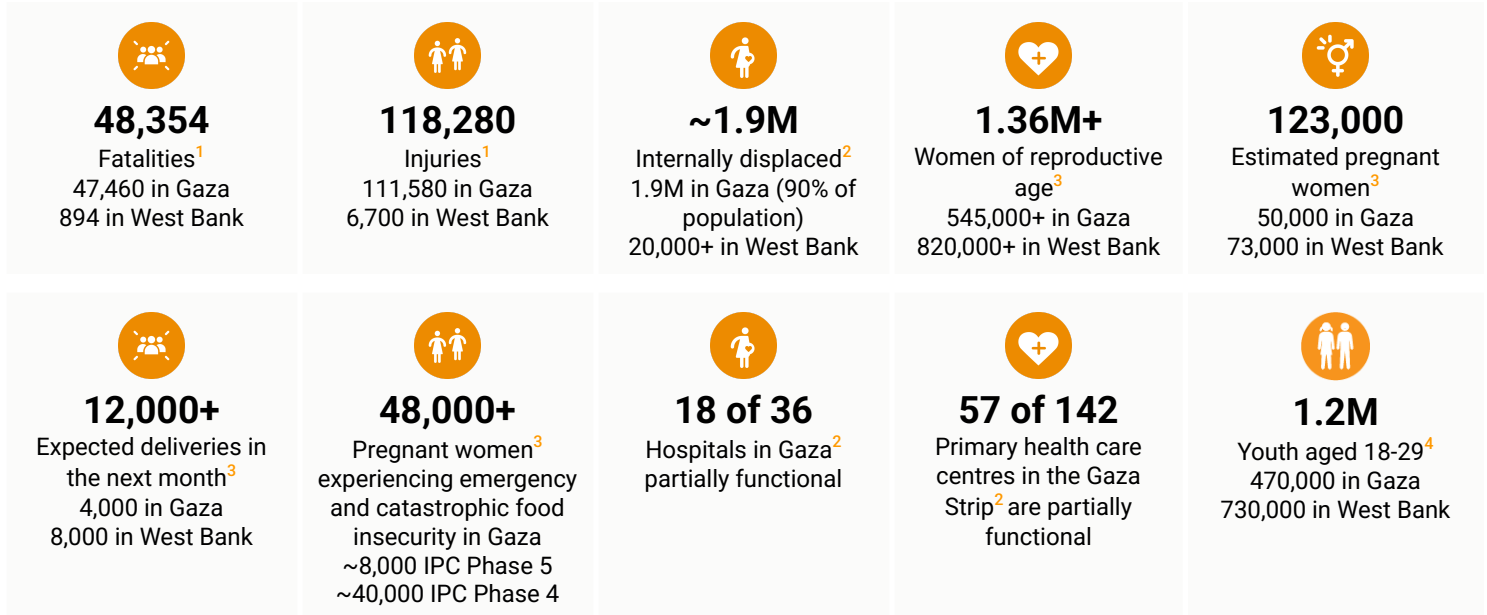


Situation Report

Humanitarian Crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territories

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| Country: | Palestine ▾ |
| Emergency type: | Conflict ▾ |
| Start Date of Crisis: | Oct 7, 2023 |
| Date Issued: | Feb 4, 2025 |
| Covering Period: | Jan 1, 2025 to Jan 31, 2025 |
| Contact Persons: | Nestor Owomuhangi, Representative, owomuhangi@unfpa.org |

KEY FIGURES



¹ Palestinian Ministry of Health - 30 Jan 2025

³ [MISP calculation](#)

² [OCHA Reported Impact Snapshot - Gaza Strip - 28 Jan 2025](#)

⁴ Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The ceasefire offers some relief, but challenges persist:** A temporary ceasefire took effect on 19 January, providing much-needed relief after 465 days of war. Over 420,000 people have since returned to Northern Gaza, where they met with widespread destruction and shortage of basic services.
- **Severe mental health crisis:** Mental health needs are soaring, with widespread traumatic events and severe psychological distress. Mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services remain extremely limited.
- **SRH and GBV services at risk:** The impending ban on UNRWA operations, enacted on 30 January, threatens to cut off humanitarian aid to millions, severely impacting women and girl's access to vital sexual and reproductive health, gender-based violence prevention and response services, and mental health support.
- **West Bank violence escalates:** In the West Bank, military operations, settler violence, and movement restrictions continue to escalate, displacing thousands and severely limiting access to healthcare and basic services.
- **UNFPA scales up life-saving aid and early recovery efforts following ceasefire:** Since the ceasefire, 52 UNFPA trucks have entered Gaza with medical supplies, dignity and hygiene kits, and winterization materials. In January, UNFPA reached over 103,800 people, providing life-saving sexual reproductive health (SRH) services to 66,500, protection services to 33,000, and education, mental health, and recreational support to 4,300 adolescents and youth.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

- Despite the ceasefire, the situation in Gaza' remains catastrophic, with 1.9 million people displaced—many multiple times—facing acute shortages of water, food, and shelter amid harsh winter conditions. Critical infrastructure is in ruins, essential services are barely operational, and urgent humanitarian aid is needed to prevent further loss of life and safeguard the dignity of Gaza's people. Nearly all of Gaza's 2.1 million residents urgently need humanitarian aid.
- The scale of destruction in Gaza is staggering. Satellite data shows 60% of buildings are damaged or destroyed, including 92% of homes, 88% of schools, and 50% of hospitals. Around 10,000 bodies are believed to be trapped under the rubble. Entire cities like Rafah, Beit Hanoun, Beit Lahia, and Jabalia are in ruins, with shattered infrastructure, collapsed roads, and contamination from unexploded ordnance. UN estimates suggest clearing the over 50 million tonnes of debris could take up to 20 years.
- Since the ceasefire, more than 420,000 people have returned to Northern Gaza after Israeli forces withdrew from key roads, but the journey is fraught with protection risks. With telecommunications down, sanitation systems non-functional, and transport unreliable, families—including vulnerable groups—are making dangerous journeys on foot.
- This large population movement to North Gaza and Gaza city has increased demand for services, including women's health and protection. As healthcare providers relocate North, staffing gaps are emerging in the South, especially in the Middle Area, Khan Younis, and most likely Rafah, with gaps currently being assessed.
- Despite improved aid access, the humanitarian response remains constrained. A surge in aid has allowed UNFPA and other partners to expand lifesaving assistance, particularly in previously inaccessible areas, with plans for increased deliveries of food, fuel, shelter, medical supplies, and water and sanitation equipment. However, the crisis remains acute, and critical gaps persist.
- Gaza's health system is barely functioning, with only 18 of 36 hospitals and 57 of 142 primary healthcare facilities partially operational, facing dire shortages of fuel, medicine, and supplies. A recent Lancet study estimates life expectancy in Gaza has nearly halved, from 75.5 years pre-war to just 40.5 years now—a 46.3% decline. Women's

life expectancy has dropped by 38.6%, from 77.4 to 47.5 years. This highlights the devastating human toll of the war, with the collapse of health services and worsening living conditions exacerbating the loss of life.

- A slow but steady increase in pregnancies and deliveries (still below pre-war levels) is driving higher demand for revised SRHR services.
- The war's psychological toll is deep, especially on children, women, and young people. With schools and universities destroyed, 658,000 children have lost both access to education but also critical MHPSS services. [Anxiety and depression are soaring](#), and there is an extensive need for mental health services.
- Gender-based violence (GBV) and sexual exploitation, has surged, particularly among displaced women and girls living in overcrowded shelters and at aid distribution points. Lack of menstrual products, hygiene facilities, and clean water has significantly increased infection risks, exacerbated by widespread malnutrition and inadequate healthcare access.
- The looming ban on UNRWA operations in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory, effective 30 January, threatens to devastate humanitarian efforts. As the largest provider of aid in Gaza, its forced withdrawal will have catastrophic consequences for millions of Palestinians refugees and displaced populations, violating international law. It will also severely impact women and girls, particularly in accessing SRH and GBV services. Through UNRWA's expansive primary healthcare and social protection systems, UNFPA provides life-saving SRH care, GBV prevention and response, and MHPSS to hundreds of thousands of women and girls in Gaza.
- In the West Bank, violence and Israeli military operations have intensified, with casualties and widespread destruction. Over 20 Palestinians have been killed since January 2025, and dozens injured in raids and airstrikes, with widespread destruction reported in refugee camps and civilian areas.
- In the Jenin Refugee Camp, around 3,000 families (almost 80% of the camp's residents) have fled due to Israeli sieges and military actions. The remaining families endure severe conditions, with no access to water, electricity, or essential services.
- Israeli settler violence against Palestinians has escalated, causing injuries, property damage, and forced displacement. Increased movement restrictions, including road closures and military checkpoints, have obstructed access to essential services, healthcare, and livelihoods. Humanitarian needs in the West Bank are rising, with healthcare facilities facing funding shortages and operational constraints.
- Movement restrictions and checkpoint closures in the West Bank critically endanger the health of approximately 73,000 pregnant women, including over 8,000 expected to give birth next month. These barriers severely impede access to essential antenatal, postnatal, and delivery care, forcing many women to risk giving birth at home or en route.



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UNFPA RESPONSE

In January 2025, UNFPA delivered lifesaving SRH and GBV prevention, mitigation, and response services across Gaza and the West Bank.

- Over **66,500 people** received SRH services, including essential medical supplies, equipment, and medicines for safe childbirth, and [postpartum kits](#) for mothers and babies. Emergency obstetric and newborn care was expanded at key facilities. Twelve hospitals supported by UNFPA, including six UNFPA-provided containerized health units inside field hospitals, are delivering SRH services in Gaza, addressing gaps in SRH, including maternal and newborn care. UNFPA-supported primary healthcare centres also offered family planning, antenatal/postnatal care, sexually transmitted infection prevention and management, and other gynecological consultations.
- GBV prevention and response efforts reached over **33,000 individuals** through 12 safe spaces and dignity kits and winterization items. GBV Area of Responsibility (AOR) resumed operations at four service delivery points in North Gaza and 12 in Gaza City. GBV service providers also supported the monitoring of people returning from Southern to Northern Gaza, offering assistance through information sharing and PSS.
- Over **4,300 adolescents and youth** were supported through education, mental health and recreational programmes, and remote counseling services.

RESULTS SNAPSHOTS



66,500
People reached with **SRH services**



35
Health facilities (*primary health care, medical points, field hospitals, and hospitals*) supported













37,300
People reached with **GBV prevention, mitigation, and response activities**



12
Women and girls' safe spaces supported, including 2 shelters

| Gaza Strip | | |
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| | 298 | Inter-agency reproductive health kits provided to 24 health facilities and service delivery points across Northern, Central, and Southern Gaza, with sufficient medical supplies to support 60,000 SRH services including 8,000 deliveries in the next three months. |
| | 3,568 | Women supported with Anti-D, Oxytocin and Bakri balloons to prevent Rhesus disease and manage postpartum haemorrhage. |
| | 6 | Containerized maternal health units provided basic and comprehensive emergency obstetric and neonatal care in the Middle Area and Khan Younis, supporting over 2,000 safe deliveries. |
| | 1,376 | Postpartum kits , containing essential hygiene and care items for mothers and newborns, distributed to new mothers in shelters and at hospitals. |

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|  | 22,723 | Winter clothes distributed to women and girls including pajamas, winter boots, sweaters, and black pants. |
|  | 6 | Women and girls' safe spaces supported to reach 6,000 women and girls with GBV risk mitigation, prevention, and response services, including MHPSS, case management, and information sessions in Southern and Central Gaza. |
|  | 18,682 | Winterization items (shelter kits) distributed to families, including 4x5m plastic tarpaulin and 200x150cm blankets |
|  | 1,248 | Dignity kits distributed to women and girls, containing menstrual pads and essential hygiene items. |
|  | 318 | Women supported through humanitarian cash and voucher assistance to address urgent needs and reduce vulnerability |
|  | 2,500 | Adolescents and youth were supported through educational classes, hygiene workshops, SRHR initiatives, and psychosocial. |
|  | 465 | Youth received psychosocial first aid through the Shubak Al Shabab helpline and the Mostashari application . |
| West Bank | | |
|  | 6 | Mobile health teams in Area C supported integrated SRH and GBV services, including one clinic for breast cancer screening. |
|  | 6 | Women and girls' safe spaces reached 6,000 women and girls with GBV risk mitigation, prevention, and response services, including MHPSS, case management, and information sessions. |
|  | 1,300 | Adolescents and youth supported through youth-friendly health services, psychosocial support, awareness sessions on health and hygiene, protection from sexual exploitation and abuse and community resilience-based activities led by supported youth local councils, the Youth Advisory Panel (YAP) and the Youth Peer Education Network (Y-PEER). |



COORDINATION MECHANISMS

Gender-based Violence:

UNFPA leads and coordinates the GBV AoR, overseeing sub-national clusters in Gaza and the West Bank. In Gaza, the GBV AoR includes 51 members from women-led organizations (WLOs), UN agencies, and national and international NGOs. During the reporting period, the AoR updated GBV service mapping and referral points and trained 25 members on identifying and referring high-risk GBV cases to the Hayat Safe Shelter. Additionally, 17 members of the Risk Mitigation Task Force received conflict resolution training to support women's groups in shelters and facilitate safety planning. The AoR also finalized a flood response and preparedness plan to protect those in flood-prone areas, ensuring survivor-centred GBV risk mitigation and relocation support, and trained the Gaza Community Mental Health Programme (GCMHP) team on GBV and referral pathways to enhance survivor support services.

Sexual and reproductive health:

UNFPA leads the Sexual and Reproductive Health Technical Working Group (SRHWG) within the Health Cluster, advocating for SRHR priorities and coordinating interagency responses. Weekly SRHWG meetings are convened, SRHR outpatient maps are updated and shared to ensure timely and adequate access to services, revising the ceasefire response plan for the next 60 days for SRHR, providing hypothermia prevention recommendations, and participating in an interagency assessment in Rafah hospitals. A mission to Gaza city and North Gaza also visited main CEMONC facilities to ensure preparedness for an influx of people from the South. UNFPA also integrated the SRHR dashboard into the Ministry of Health's data system, improved referral pathways for SRHR services, and trained nine SRHWG members to refer high-risk GBV cases to the Hayat Safe Shelter, in line with the Ministry of Social Development's referral protocol.

Adolescents and youth

UNFPA leads the adolescent and youth health emergency response and advocacy through the Palestinian Adolescent Health Coalition and the United Nations Youth Group (UNYTG), while integrating youth needs into the humanitarian response via the Global Compact of Young People in Humanitarian Action Task Force on the Humanitarian Situation in Palestine.

Other working groups

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

FUNDING STATUS

As part of the 2025 Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) Flash Appeal, UNFPA is requesting **\$99.2 million** for its operational response to address ongoing and emerging needs in both Gaza and the West Bank throughout the duration of 2025.

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

* List of UNFPA donors who supported UNFPA's response since the beginning of the war (2023-2025)

