

Humanitarian impact overview one month since the conflict

OVERVIEW

Since 7 October 2023, when the Qassam Brigades (armed wing of the Hamas) and other Palestinian armed groups launched the al-Aqsa Storm military operation against Israel, hostilities between Hamas and Israeli forces have been constantly intensifying (WHO 10/10/2023; CNN 08/10/2023; Al Jazeera 09/10/2023). Israeli forces have launched a massive bombardment campaign, especially targeting northern Gaza and Gaza city. Since 28 October, Israel has been making regular and increasingly deep incursions into Gaza, with reports of its forces surrounding Gaza city as at 2 November (CNN 27/10/2023; Reuters 30/10/2023; The Guardian 30/10/2023; Nation 29/10/2023; FT 30/10/2023; OCHA 29/10/2023 a; Al Jazeera 03/11/2023; AP 03/11/2023).

Since the hostilities started, the violence has killed about 1,400 Israelis and injured over 5,400 (OCHA 29/10/2023 b; FT 30/10/2023; OCHA 06/11/2023). As at 6 November, Hamas and other Palestinian armed groups were holding around 242 Israelis and foreign nationals hostage in Gaza, including an unverified number reported killed and four freed (OCHA 29/10/2023 a; Al Jazeera 28/10/2023; ET 27/10/2023; Nation 26/10/2023; OCHA 06/11/2023).

As at 6 November, the violence had killed over 9,480 Palestinians, including around 3,900 children, and injured over 24,170 in Gaza. About 2,100 people, including over 1,200 children, were either missing, dead, or trapped under the rubble waiting to be rescued (UN 31/10/2023; OCHA 05/11/2023). In the West Bank, the conflict had killed about 141 Palestinians (UNRWA 01/11/2023; OCHA 06/11/2023).

On 13 October, Israeli forces ordered people to evacuate from north Gaza, including from 22 hospitals, leading to massive, unprecedented displacement towards the south and middle cities, away from border areas with Israel (PRCS 30/10/2023; VOA 29/10/2023; UNICEF 30/10/2023; WHO 28/10/2023 and 31/10/2023). This has resulted in the internal displacement of over 1.4 million people (over 60% of the total population) (IOM 02/11/2023; OCHA 02/11/2023, 01/11/2023 a, and 01/11/2023 b; OCHA 05/11/2023).

The complete siege that Israel declared on 8 October is preventing the adequate supply of goods into the enclave. All crossing points with Israel have been shut down (Al Jazeera 09/10/2023; DW 09/10/2023; The Guardian 12/10/2023; WHO 10/10/2023; UNRWA 11/10/2023; OCHA 02/11/2023). Since 21 October, the Rafah Crossing connecting Gaza with Egypt has been reopened after years

of closure following intense diplomatic negotiations (VOX 09/10/2023; TWP 11/10/2023; UNICEF 06/2022). Egypt only allows goods to pass on a limited scale. It does not allow the movement of people, except those severely injured, foreign nationals, aid workers, and Palestinians with foreign passports, who were allowed to exit on 2 November (AP 02/11/2023; MSF 01/11/2023). As at 4 November, only 451 trucks had entered the Gaza Strip since 21 October. The UN estimates that 100 trucks are needed per day (OCHA 02/11/2023; WFP 31/10/2023 and 30/10/2023; OCHA 01/11/2023 a; OCHA 05/11/2023). Beginning on 27 October, internet and mobile services are intermittently cut off (WFP 31/10/2023 and 29/10/2023; Mint 05/11/2023).

About this report

Aim: this report provides an overview of how the humanitarian situation has evolved over the past month since the attack on Israel on 7 October 2023. It is meant to highlight priority needs and humanitarian response constraints.

Method: the report is based on a secondary data review of the publicly available sources as at 6 November 2023.

Limitations: information is quickly outdated because of the dynamic nature of the conflict. The siege, insecurity, and access constraints limit information on the situation in Gaza.

Figures in the report come from different sources, including the UN, the Palestinian Ministry of Health and the Israeli authorities. While the report is based on the best available information, a certain level of uncertainty remains with respect to the accuracy.

KEY FIGURES AND CONCERNS IN GAZA

People affected

- The conflict is affecting the total population of Gaza (approximately 2.3 million) (PCBS 07/07/2022; UNFPA 30/03/2023; OCHA 16/12/2021).
- There are around 1.5 million IDPs in the strip (OCHA accessed 05/11/2023).

Destruction and damage

- As at 4 November 2023, over 16,000 housing units were destroyed, over 11,000 severely damaged and uninhabitable, and more than 220,000 partially damaged (OCHA 05/11/2023; Shelter Cluster 03/11/2023).
- As at 4 November, 39 health facilities, 258 education facilities, 55 mosques, three churches had been targeted (OCHA accessed 06/11/2023). As at 28 October, 471 industrial facilities and 85 press offices had been targeted (WHO 05/11/2023, Euro-Med Monitor 28/10/2023).

Hospitals

- Less than two-thirds or 60% of hospitals with inpatient capacity, equivalent to about 21 out of 35 hospitals, are operating (OCHA accessed 06/11/2023, WHO 31/10/2023; OCHA 02/11/2023).

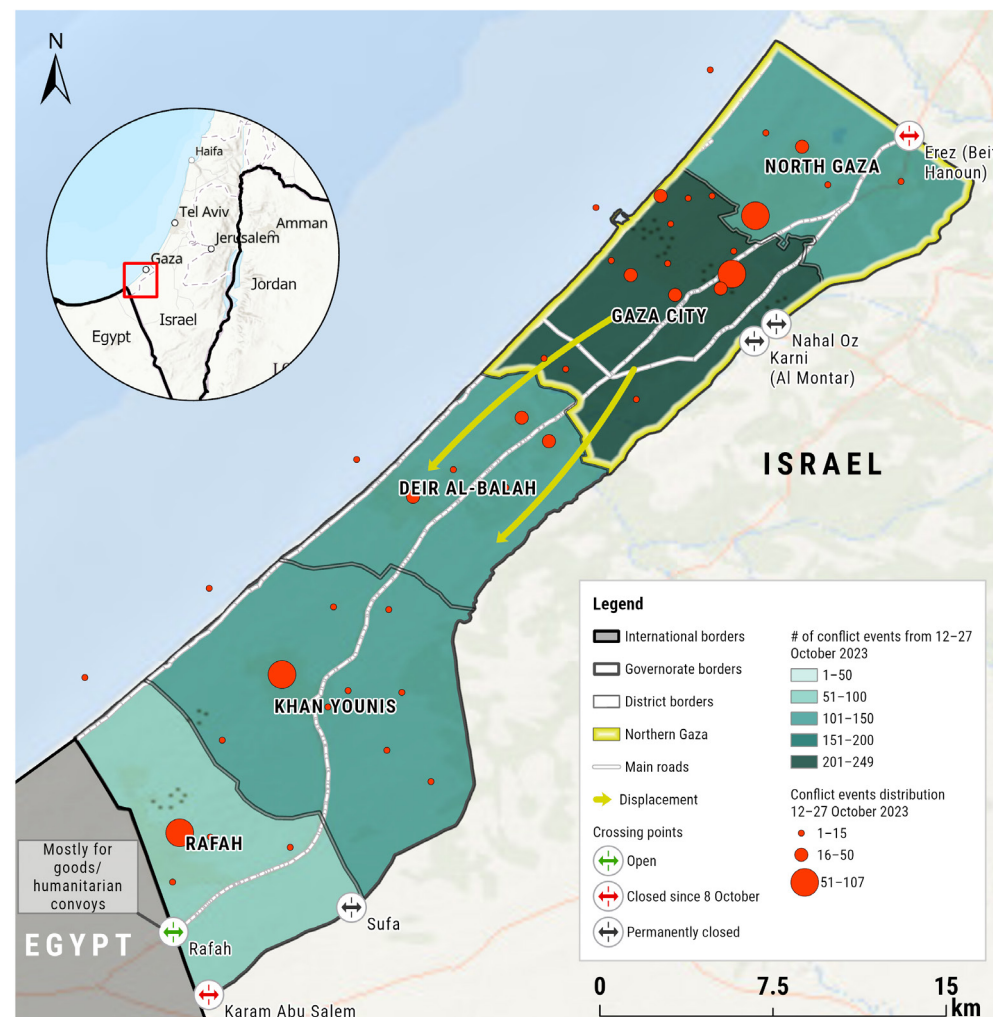
Estimated needs

- 337,000 under-five children and 155,000 pregnant and lactating women in Gaza are at risk of malnutrition and urgently require food and nutritional assistance (UNICEF 27/10/2023).
- 1.1 million people are estimated to be in urgent need of WASH services and are at risk of waterborne diseases (OCHA 11/10/2023, 12/10/2023, and 30/10/2023 a).
- 1.1 million people are targeted for food assistance in the next two months (WFP 31/10/2023).

Supply of basic goods

- Only 451 trucks have entered Gaza since 21 October. The UN estimates that 100 are required daily, including 50 for food only (WFP 31/10/2023 and 30/10/2023 OCHA 05/11/2023).
- No fuel is allowed in, preventing hospitals, bakeries, and other essential services, such as water purification and sewerage pumping, from functioning (UNRWA 01/11/2023; OCHA 02/11/2023).

Escalation of hostilities in Gaza since 7 October



Source: ACAPS using data from ACLED (accessed 05/11/2023) and OCHA (accessed 06/11/2023)

*For the development of this map ACAPS considered the following 'conflict events' recorded by ACLED: air/drone strikes, armed clashes, and shelling, artillery, and missile attacks.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE CAPACITY AND CONSTRAINTS

Humanitarian access in and out of Gaza

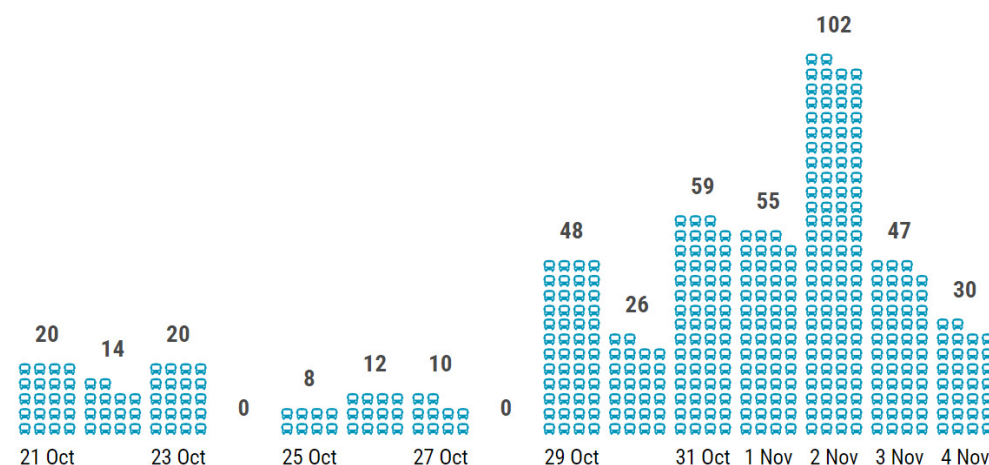
The complete siege of Gaza declared by Israeli authorities has been underway since 9 October and has essentially cut off electricity, food, water, and fuel in the Gaza Strip (NYT 09/10/2023; Al Jazeera 09/10/2023; DW 09/10/2023). Before 7 October, the Gaza Strip had been under a 16-year sea, land, and air blockade by Israel, and also implemented by Egypt (VOX 09/10/2023; TWP 11/10/2023). Movement in and out of Gaza has since been restricted, limiting the number of people and goods allowed in and out through the Israeli-controlled crossings (UNICEF 06/2022). Since 8 October, humanitarian organisations have continued to negotiate access into the Gaza Strip to supply urgently needed assistance (NRC 12/10/2023; DCA 12/10/2023; The Guardian 11/10/2023; Tol 11/10/2023; Mercy Corps 10/10/2023; Franceinfo 10/10/2023). Humanitarian access through Israel at the Beit Hanoun or Erez Crossing and the Karam Abu Salem or Kerem Shalom border crossing has been blocked since 7 October, including for patients. Only the Rafah Crossing with Egypt remains open for humanitarian cargo, excluding fuel, with access being allowed intermittently since 21 October (STC 29/10/2023; OCHA 29/10/2023 b and 31/10/2023 a). On 2 November, civilians, including foreign nationals, Palestinians with dual citizenship, and humanitarian staff, were able to cross into Egypt via the Rafah Crossing for the first time since 7 October (AP 02/11/2023; MSF 01/11/2023).

As at 4 November, about 451 trucks had entered the enclave through the Rafah Crossing since 21 October. The level of aid remains insufficient given the scale of needs. The UN estimates that 100 trucks of food aid are required per day, including 50 trucks for food items only. Fuel, which Israeli authorities are still not allowing to enter as at 6 November, is highly needed to operate life-saving equipment (OCHA 02/11/2023 and 31/10/2023; WFP 31/10/2023 and 30/10/2023 OCHA 06/11/2023).

Telecommunication services, including cellular and internet services, have been experiencing frequent cut-offs since 27 October (OCHA 29/10/2023 a; Mint 05/11/2023).

On 27 October, the UNGA finally voted in favour of a resolution calling for an “immediate, durable and sustained humanitarian truce leading to a cessation of hostilities”, the immediate release of civilians held captive, and the compliance of the conflict parties with obligations under international humanitarian and human rights law. Despite this call, the truce had not been implemented as at 5 November (UN 27/10/2023; AP 28/10/2023; Al Jazeera 27/10/2023; The Guardian 30/10/2023; BBC 30/10/2023; Al Jazeera 05/11/2023).

Trucks entering Gaza between 21 October and 4 November



Source: ACAPS using data from OCHA (accessed 06/11/2023)

Impact on humanitarian personnel and facilities

Attacks on humanitarians and humanitarian facilities continue to escalate. Between 7 October and 1 November, the violence killed 79 UNRWA staff (UNRWA 05/11/2023; OCHA 02/11/2023).

Humanitarian responders in Gaza

Despite the highly constrained access situation and insecurity, several humanitarian organisations are present in Gaza and ready to deliver and scale up life-saving assistance as soon as supply enter the strip. These include UN agencies such as UNICEF, UNRWA, WHO, WFP, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) as well as the Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies, and other international organisations.

HUMANITARIAN IMPACT

Israel

The Hamas attack on Israel that started on 7 October has killed 1,400 people and injured over 5,400 (OCHA 30/10/2023 a; UNRWA 30/10/2023). According to Israeli authorities, Hamas and Palestinian Islamic extremists are holding 238 Israelis and foreign nationals' hostage in Gaza. Two each were freed on 20 October and 23 October, following diplomatic negotiations involving countries such as Qatar and Egypt (Al Jazeera 03/11/2023; BBC 31/10/2023; NYT 02/11/2023). Hamas continues to report numbers of Israeli hostages in Gaza killed by Israeli raids, but these are difficult to verify (OCHA 02/11/2023 and 29/10/2023 a; Al Jazeera 28/10/2023; ET 27/10/2023; Nation 26/10/2023). Among those being held hostage are women, children, older people, and people with disabilities (HRW 19/10/2023).

A WHO representative in Israel reported that as at 23 October, WHO's surveillance system had recorded eight attacks on health facilities in the country that resulted in seven deaths. The health response in Israel has been swift, with the Ministry of Health reporting that it is coping and does not need WHO support (WHO 23/10/2023).

The inhabitants of the majority of towns in the south close to the border with Gaza have evacuated following orders by the Israeli military and out of fear of continued hostilities (HRW 19/10/2023; Reuters accessed 11/10/2023; ABC 10/10/2023; Tol 08/10/2023).

As at 22 October, about 200,000 people were estimated to be internally displaced from the border areas with Lebanon and Gaza, although these figures remain unverified (Tol 22/10/2023 and 16/10/2023; Reuters 22/10/2023).

Commercial air transportation remains disrupted, with several airlines yet to resume flights to Israel (The Economist 24/10/2023; BBC 11/10/2023; Al Jazeera 10/10/2023).

Palestine

As at 5 November, about 1.5 million people displaced by the hostilities in Gaza were seeking refuge in shelters, public buildings, or with host families (OCHA 05/11/2023; Health Cluster, WHO 06/11/2023). As at 5 November, over 717,000 were living in 149 UNRWA installations, 122,000 in public facilities, 110,000 in non-UNRWA schools, and 551,000 with host families (OCHA 05/11/2023). People are regularly moving depending on food and water availability and the security situation (OCHA 29/10/2023).

Housing and infrastructure

In Gaza, infrastructure damage has been extensive. According to latest assessments, as at 4 November, over 16,000 housing units had been destroyed, over 11,000 severely damaged and uninhabitable, and more than 220,000 housing units were partially damaged. According to Gaza Ministry of Public Work and Housing the number of destroyed housing units exceeds the 40,000 (OCHA 06/11/2023; Shelter Cluster 03/11/2023). 39 health facilities, 258 education facilities, 55 mosques, three churches, 471 industrial facilities, and 85 press offices had also been either damaged or destroyed since 7 October (Euro-Med Monitor 28/10/2023; BBC 27/10/2023; OCHA 06/11/2023; CNN 29/10/2023).

The numbers of displaced people per shelter exceed the intended capacity, leading to overcrowding and increasing protection and health risks (UNRWA 30/10/2023). There is an urgent need for NFI provision, housing repair for displaced urban families, and cash for shelter assistance (OCHA 30/10/2023 b, 29/10/2023 a, and 31/10/2023 a).

On 7 October, the Israeli Government discontinued the provision of electricity supply to Gaza, leaving the enclave in a complete blackout (OCHA 29/10/2023 a; CNN 25/10/2023). The Israeli Electric Company provided 120MW of the 210MW of the electricity supply in Gaza. The fuel-dependent Gaza Power Plant, which provided 60MW of the remaining 90MW, is inoperable, increasing dependence on backup fuel generators and solar panels (OCHA 29/10/2023 a; Tol 28/10/2023).

Health

As at 4 November, the conflict had damaged around 39 health facilities and killed at least 16 medical staff on duty (WHO 04/11/2023; PRC 04/11/2023; Euro-Med Monitor 28/10/2023; OCHA 30/10/2023 a). 14 out of 35 hospitals and 51 out of 72 primary healthcare facilities have shut down since the start of hostilities because of damage or a lack of fuel (PRC 04/11/2023; OCHA 05/11/2023). Bombardments of areas near the hospitals of al-Andonise in Beit Lahiya, al-Quds and Dar al-Shifa in Gaza city have continued thus causing damage to facilities and injuries of patients and displaced people sheltering in the facilities. Over 122,000 people, including medical staff, patients, and displaced families, are sheltering in hospitals and other public facilities throughout the enclave, causing overcrowding in the facilities (PRC 04/11/2023; OCHA 05/11/2023, 02/11/2023 and 30/10/2023 a; WHO 28/10/2023; UNRWA 30/10/2023 and 01/11/2023; UN 30/10/2023). Since 27 October, Israeli forces have been issuing repeated calls for evacuations from hospitals, with bombardments in areas near hospitals occurring. The remaining 21 operational hospitals across Gaza have continuously received evacuation orders, putting the lives in these facilities at risk, including the lives of patients with chronic diseases and those on life support (WHO 28/10/2023 and 31/10/2023; OCHA 30/10/2023 b and 29/10/2023 a; Reuters 30/10/2023; The Guardian 30/10/2023).

There is a shortage of medical supplies and reduced services in functional hospitals amid the high numbers of injuries (WHO 31/10/2023; OCHA 30/10/2023 b and 29/10/2023 a; MSF 27/10/2023; Time 25/10/2023; Al Jazeera 30/10/2023 a). WHO estimates that about 100 patients per day need access to healthcare services outside Gaza because of a lack of diagnostics, medical expertise, treatments, equipment, and specialised services (WHO 31/10/2023 and 21/10/2023). Increasing medical needs means that supplies can only last a few days before being depleted (WHO 31/10/2023; UNRWA 30/10/2023; OCHA 30/10/2023 b and 29/10/2023 a; MSF 27/10/2023). The hostilities continue to constrain access to medical services, including for about 50,000 pregnant women (OCHA 12/10/2023; WHO et al. 03/11/2023).

Fuel shortages have led to rationing, forcing medical facilities to limit the use of fuel-dependent generators to only essential functions and severely affecting high-risk patients, such as kidney and cancer patients and premature babies relying on incubators for survival (OCHA 30/10/2023 a, 30/10/2023 b, and 29/10/2023 a; Time 25/10/2023; CNN 30/10/2023; CARE 30/10/2023). Ambulances are also unable to respond to emergencies because of a lack of fuel, while some have sustained damage from Israeli airstrikes, limiting access to the sick and injured (WHO 21/10/2023; PRC 04/11/2023). Hospitals in northern Gaza, including Dar al-Shifa, are not receiving fuel and supplies because of insecurity, while others, such as the Indonesian Hospital and the Turkish Friendship Hospital, are functioning at a very low capacity. Six hospitals across Gaza have closed down because of a lack of fuel (WHO 24/10/2023 and 21/10/2023; OCHA 01/11/2023 a).

Health workers are overwhelmed because of their inability to treat the growing number of injuries, with constant bombardments near hospitals and the rising number of civilians seeking safety and shelter in hospitals (WHO 28/10/2023 and 21/10/2023; MSF 27/10/2023; OCHA 30/10/2023 b and 29/10/2023 a; Al Jazeera 30/10/2023 a).

There is a reported increase in diseases associated with a lack of WASH facilities and overcrowding in shelters, such as diarrhoea, skin diseases, and respiratory diseases, particularly as temperatures increase (OCHA 01/11/2023 a).

Protection

The hostilities have resulted in a high number of civilian deaths, with figures expected to increase as many remain unaccounted for (OCHA 31/10/2023 a; UN 31/10/2023). There is a heightened risk of sexual and gender-based violence against women and girls with the continuing hostilities and displacement. There is also a high need for the screening and removal of unexploded ordnance in residential areas and areas close to IDP shelters (OCHA 12/10/2023, 30/10/2023 b, 29/10/2023 a, and 31/10/2023 a; UNRWA 30/10/2023).

Mental health and psychosocial support

The need for mental and psychological support remains high, particularly among children. The majority of conflict-affected communities prioritise obtaining means for survival rather than mental health support (UNICEF 31/10/2023 and 30/10/2023; UN 31/10/2023).

Food security

There is an urgent need for food across Gaza. The rising food insecurity as a result of a lack of food access and water scarcity has left about 337,000 under-five children and 155,000 pregnant and lactating women in Gaza at risk of malnutrition. These people urgently require food and nutritional assistance (UNICEF 27/10/2023; OCHA 01/11/2023 a). Access restrictions and the suspension of essential services will likely increase the risk of malnutrition and related diseases (UNICEF 27/10/2023).

Since 21 October, only about 100 food trucks containing ready-to-eat food have entered Gaza via the Rafah Crossing. This is less than the required 50 food trucks per day needed to address the growing scale of needs (WFP 31/10/2023 and 01/11/2023; OCHA 01/11/2023 a). Food assistance has also included the distribution of fresh bread to displaced people in shelters, with WFP-contracted bakeries supplying the bread daily (WFP 21/10/2023 and 27/10/2023).

Flour shortages, fuel and water scarcity, and damage from air strikes limit the production of bread (WFP 01/11/2023, 31/10/2023, and 21/10/2023; UNRWA 30/10/2023; OCHA 01/11/2023 a, 30/10/2023 b, and 30/10/2023 a). Given these constraints, it takes an average waiting time of 4–6 hours to receive half the normal bread portion, resulting in hour-long queues that expose people to air strikes (OCHA 01/11/2023 b and 01/11/2023 a). Retail shops are unable to restock supplies, including food, because of damaged roads, fuel scarcity, and insecurity, with existing market stocks as at 29 October estimated to last between 1–23 days (WFP 01/11/2023 and 31/10/2023).

Between 7 October and 1 November, Israeli air strikes destroyed about 11 bakeries. As at 1 November, only one WFP-contracted bakery and eight local bakeries were functioning, out of 23 initially contracted at the start of the response (OCHA 01/11/2023 a; WFP 31/10/2023). A communication blackout on 27 October following intensified bombardments caused a 36-hour suspension of food distributions (WFP 31/10/2023 and 29/10/2023).

Following the communication blackout and subsequent suspension of aid distributions, civilians broke into WFP-operated warehouses on 29 October in central and southern Gaza Strip in search of food and NFI assistance, likely because of intermittent and insufficient aid distributions leaving them in urgent need (UNRWA 29/10/2023; WFP 29/10/2023 and 31/10/2023; BBC 29/10/2023).

The limited production capacity as a result of the 16-year blockade has increased dependence on imports, with about 31% of the 78,970 truckloads entering Gaza as at August 2023 containing food imports (WFP 01/11/2023). About 1.2 million people were in need of food assistance in the strip as at the beginning of 2023, with over 70% of households relying on food assistance (OCHA 25/01/2023; WFP 01/11/2023).

WASH

Water shortages continue worsening in Gaza. On 15 October, water supply from Israel through western Khan Younis (which previously supplied 600m³ per hour of water to the strip) was restored before being cut off again on 30 October for unknown reasons (OCHA 30/10/2023 b). There is currently 92% less water consumption compared to pre-conflict because of Israeli air strikes destroying water and sewerage facilities, affecting 1.1 million people (OCHA 11/10/2023, 12/10/2023, and 30/10/2023 a).

In Gaza city and northern Gaza, only water trucking is available, as the pipeline supplying water from Israel and the desalination plant are not operational. As at 30 October, hostilities had caused the suspension of water trucking services. In central and southern Gaza, the two operational desalination plants are at 40% capacity, besides 120 water wells and 20 pumping stations, allowing households water access for a few hours a day after some fuel provisions from humanitarian organisations (OCHA 30/10/2023 b).

The dire shortage of chlorine for water purification and disinfection leaves salty water as the only option, leading to waterborne diseases and dehydration, which particularly risks infants' lives (UNICEF 31/10/2023; OCHA 09/10/2023; CDC accessed 09/10/2020). There have already been reports of scabies, diarrhoea, and chicken pox related to the consumption of unsafe water since the start of the conflict (NRC 24/10/2023).

UNRWA solid waste collection services and transfers to landfills continue in Khan Younis, Middle Area/Deir al-Balah, and Rafah, although with challenges given the lack of fuel and staff shortage (UNRWA 25/10/2023).

Education

As at 31 October, about 625,000 children had no access to education, with over 78% of school buildings either being used as shelters for displaced people or damaged by Israeli air strikes (OCHA 30/10/2023 a; Education Cluster 02/11/2023). Some UNRWA-run schools continue providing educational services, albeit limited, given movement restrictions, road closures, and safety risks (UNRWA 30/10/2023).

DEVELOPMENTS TO WATCH

Conflict intensification in Gaza

On 27 October, Israel announced the second phase of its military operations, leading to the advancement of its troops from northern Gaza Strip towards Gaza city (AP 03/11/2023; Euronews 01/11/2023). The Israeli Prime Minister has refused the possibility of a ceasefire, with claims that its ground advancements intend to free Israeli hostages in Gaza to “topple Hamas destroying its military capabilities, and eliminate the threat of terrorism emanating from the strip” (The Guardian 30/10/2023; BBC 30/10/2023; Sky News 30/10/2023; ICG 18/10/2023).

Conflict escalation beyond Gaza

West Bank

Since 7 October, violence and tensions have increased in the West Bank as a result of the hostilities in Gaza. The Israeli Defense Forces have since conducted continuous raids in the territory, including in refugee camps, to target Palestinian armed groups (Reuters 27/10/2023; The Guardian 24/10/2023; Al Jazeera 30/10/2023 b and 28/10/2023; OCHA 11/10/2023). Settler violence has also increased since 7 October, from an average of three daily incidents to seven in the past month (OCHA 30/10/2023 b and 01/11/2023 a; BBC 21/10/2023; UNSC 24/10/2023). Protests denouncing Israeli military actions against Palestinians in Gaza have continued, including in Hebron, Jenin, and Nablus, leading to confrontations between protesters and the Israeli military (TWP 18/10/2023; Al Jazeera 21/10/2023; OCHA 30/10/2023 b and 01/11/2023 a). Fatalities resulting from these protests have been reported, with Israeli forces and settlers killing about 140 Palestinians, including 43 children, since 7 October (OCHA 06/11/2023; The Guardian 24/10/2023; Reuters 27/10/2023). Between 7 October and 1 November, 186 attacks against Palestinians have been recorded, resulting in casualties and property damage. Homes and critical infrastructure belonging to Palestinians continue being demolished in Area C and East Jerusalem given the alleged lack of building permits, while other demolitions have targeted suspected perpetrators of attacks against Israelis, which continue leading to displacements. As at 1 November, about 900 Palestinians, including over 350 children, had been displaced (OCHA 06/11/2023).

Lebanon and Israel border

Since the beginning of 2023, there has been a growing number of breaches of international commitments by the Hezbollah and Israel Defense Forces on the Blue Line, a disputed border area between Lebanon and Israel. Since 1978, UNIFIL has patrolled the Blue Line under

different mandates. Provocative actions from both sides near the border area have included military drills, the firing of rockets, air strikes, and the escalation of rhetoric confrontations. These attacks have intensified further since 7 October across the Blue Line and have deepened into Lebanon and Israel territories following hostilities between Hamas and Israel. Conflict intensification has led to civilian deaths and the evacuation of villages in Lebanon close to the Israeli border (Al Jazeera 30/10/2023 c and 30/10/2023 d; ACAPS 18/10/2023; Limes 23/10/2023; ICG 24/10/2023; UNIFIL 14/10/2023). Since 7 October, cross-border attacks have killed about 72 people in southern Lebanon and displaced over 25,700 people from the region (IOM 02/11/2023; Tol 03/11/2023; The EastAfrican 03/11/2023). On 3 November, Hezbollah, the political party and militant group dominant in southern Lebanon and a supporter of Hamas, issued warnings of a potential escalation of hostilities along its border with Israel should Israel continue its operations in Gaza (Al Jazeera 03/11/2023; Tol 03/11/2023; France 24 03/11/2023; The EastAfrican 03/11/2023).

Yemen

On 31 October, Ansar Allah (also known as the Houthis), the de-facto authority in the north of Yemen and one of the Iran-aligned groups in the region, launched missiles and drone attacks against Israel in support of Hamas (Al Jazeera 31/10/2023; Reuters 01/11/2023; NYT 31/10/2023; Al Jazeera 31/10/2023; CNN 01/11/2023). While Israeli and US forces were able to intercept the attacks emanating over the Red Sea, the Houthis have vowed to continue the raids (Reuters 01/11/2023; NYT 31/10/2023; Al Jazeera 31/10/2023; CNN 01/11/2023).

Syria

Since 7 October, there has been a slight intensification of conflict in Syria. Since 10 October, rockets were launched from southern Syria by pro-Hezbollah armed groups against Israeli military positions near the border with Israel, leading to a series of retaliation attacks by Israeli and US military. The attacks have damaged the runways of Damascus and Aleppo airports, critical infrastructure such as water and electricity supply points, and military targets mainly in northern Syria (Reuters 12/10/2023; AP News 23/10/2023; Al Jazeera 30/10/2023 c; France 24 25/10/2023; The Jerusalem Post 24/10/2023; MEE 28/10/2023; Reuters 12/10/2023).