



ISSUE # 1 - 13 October 2023

# CRISIS IN PALESTINE

## UNFPA Palestine Situation Report

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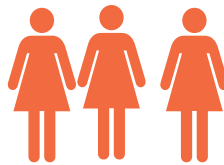
### FAST FACTS



**1,843**

**Have lost their lives**

\*MoH 13-10-2023 at 04:10 pm



**1.34M**

**Women of reproductive age  
(15-49 yrs)**

\*MISP calculation



**7,088**

**Have been injured**

\*MoH 13-10-2023 at 04:10 pm



**123,000**

**Currently Pregnant women in  
West Bank and Gaza**

\*MISP calculation



**423,000**

**Internally displaced**

\*OCHA Flash Update #6

\* Prior to the evacuation order  
affecting 1.1 million people.



**13,649**

**Expected deliveries  
in the next month in West  
Bank and Gaza**

\*MISP calculation

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

Following Palestinian armed groups' launch of "Operation Al-Asqa Flood" on 7 October, the Israeli Forces launched operation "Iron Sword" with strikes on the Gaza Strip by air, land and sea. The current escalation follows six major military escalations between Israel and Palestinian militants in the past years, leading to substantial destruction of Gaza's infrastructure and grave human suffering. This escalation has been marked by increased brutality and destruction, surpassing previous conflicts. According to the Palestinian Ministry of Health's update on 13 October, at least 1,799 Palestinians have lost their lives, and 6,388 have been injured in Gaza since the start of the escalation. An additional 44 Palestinians, including four children, were killed, and 700 were injured by Israeli forces in the West Bank. With Israel's formal declaration of war, the number of vulnerable individuals is expected to increase, and settler attacks in the West Bank and East Jerusalem are becoming more violent.

The situation is evolving rapidly, with a significant number of people fleeing their homes in Gaza and seeking refuge in schools and with relatives. On 13 October Israel announced for 1.1 million of Gaza population to evacuate to southern Gaza. Of critical concern to UNFPA are the estimated 540,000 women of reproductive age (WRA) in Gaza, among whom 50,000 are currently pregnant, and 5,522 are expected to deliver in the next month; these women face extreme challenges to access safe delivery services due to risks related to movement, compromised functionality of health facilities, and stockouts in lifesaving supplies. If the situation continues to escalate, nearly 800,00 WRA in the West Bank including 73,000 currently pregnant women and the 8,127 expected to deliver in the next month will also be at heightened risk. Given the high density of the population, including those displaced directly by the recent violence, UNFPA is equally concerned for the safety and protection of women and girls from GBV.

## HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

- Declaration of a complete siege in Gaza and closure of all crossings creates severe shortages of electricity, food, water, and fuel. Drugs, medical supplies and fuel are only expected to last a few days. Gaza's 13 hospitals and health facilities are only partially functioning.
- Prior to the escalation there were stockouts of 48% of essential medical supplies in Gaza, including 20 items crucial for maternity and pediatric services.
- WHO has documented 37 health attacks since 7 October resulting in casualties among healthcare workers and damage to 13 healthcare facilities and at least 15 ambulances. This further impedes access to life-saving SRH services including emergency obstetric and newborn care.
- Strict closures in the West Bank and potential settler attacks have disrupted service delivery at mobile clinics and health facilities and significantly limited population movement and access to services.

## FUNDING NEEDS

The OPT Flash Appeal was initiated on October 12, 2023, and seeks to secure US\$294 million to address the most pressing requirements of 1,260,000 individuals in Gaza and the occupied West Bank over a three-month period. Within the framework of this inter-agency flash appeal, UNFPA's financial requirements amount to **US\$6.9 million\*** as follows:

Sexual and Reproductive Health **US\$3.6 million**

Gender-Based Violence **US\$3.3 million**

\*These figures encompass expenses related to security, supplies (including transportation and warehousing), and human resources.



## **UNFPA'S RESPONSE:**

UNFPA began its operations in oPt in 1986 and supports programmes providing high-quality, comprehensive and rights-based services, including those targeting youth, across Gaza, East Jerusalem and the West Bank.

### **Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH)**

- UNFPA supports the MOH to lead the SRH Working Group, coordinates with the Health Cluster for SRH response, and leads the Mobile Clinic Working Group.
- In Gaza, UNFPA is working to support the Ministry of Health (MOH) in Gaza and partners with critical life-saving SRH services, including addressing the availability of out-of-stock SRH drugs and consumables. The midwifery network will be activated to offer virtual support while maintaining connections with hospital-level specialists. Currently though, no support can be delivered due to the lack of humanitarian space.
- In the West Bank, midwives have been redeployed by MOH from hospitals to MOH Safe Motherhood Emergency Centers that have been supported by UNFPA, to improve accessibility with a midwife identified for each community. Emergency district teams have been activated along with virtual support mechanisms including referral pathways and services to ensure continued access to SRH services.

### **Gender-Based Violence (GBV)**

- UNFPA leads the GBV sub-cluster in both Gaza and the West Bank, focusing on coordinating efforts on who can do what and where, priority needs, available services, and constraints.
- UNFPA is providing psycho-social support services (PSS) and other essential services through helplines, and is supporting the prevention and mitigation of protection risks for women and girls, including GBV survivors and women at risk. UNFPA is providing cash and voucher assistance in Gaza and West Bank as part of GBV case management and planning to scale-up, as feasible.
- UNFPA is pre-positioning dignity kits for Gaza in order to ensure that supplies to promote women's hygiene and well-being are available as soon as access is granted including 3,000 dignity kits handed over to the Egyptian Red Cross and delivered to Osmailia on 13 October.

## **UNFPA CALLS FOR:**

- In line with the UN Secretary General's statement, all parties must comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law and establish a humanitarian corridor to facilitate the immediate entry of humanitarian and health supplies into the Gaza Strip and allow humanitarian teams to immediately and safely reach the hundreds of thousands of people in need.
- Ensure immediate and unhindered access to health care and the continuity of essential health services, including sexual and reproductive health services.
- Safety and protection concerns for women and girls must be mainstreamed across all response efforts.
- Rapid scale up of mental health and psychosocial services is required.