



Situation Report

Humanitarian Crisis in Palestine

Photo: ©UNFPA/Media Clinic

Country:	Palestine
Emergency type:	Conflict
Start Date of Crisis:	Oct 7, 2023
Date Issued:	May 16, 2025
Covering Period:	Apr 1, 2025 to Apr 30, 2025
Contact Persons:	Nestor Owomuhangi, Representative, owomuhangi@unfpa.org

KEY FIGURES



53,901

Fatalities¹
52,928 in Gaza
973 in West Bank



126,546

Injuries¹
119,846 in Gaza
6,700 in West Bank



~1.9M

Internally displaced²
1.9M in Gaza (90% of
population)
40,000+ in West Bank



22 of 35

Hospitals in Gaza²
partially functional



73 of 153

Primary healthcare
centres in the Gaza Strip²
are partially functional



1.36M+

Women of
reproductive age³
545,000+ in Gaza
820,000+ in West Bank



128,000

Estimated pregnant
women³
55,000 in Gaza
73,000 in West Bank



12,000+

Expected births in the
next month³
4,000 in Gaza
8,000 in West Bank



11,000

Pregnant women are at
risk of imminent famine
IPC Phase 5
(Catastrophe)⁴



1.2M

Youth aged 18-29⁵
470,000 in Gaza
730,000 in West Bank

¹ Palestinian Ministry of Health - 14 May 2025

² [OCHA Reported Impact Snapshot - Gaza Strip - 07 May 2025](#)

³ [MISP calculation](#)

⁴ [IPC Acute Food Insecurity And Malnutrition Analysis](#)

⁵ Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Total blockade fuels unprecedented hunger and despair:** With Gaza sealed off for over two months, women and girls are struggling to survive. Desperation is rising, and time is running out to avert potential famine. Food insecurity is driving a surge in pregnancy complications, underweight births, and having catastrophic impacts on mother and newborns' health.
- **Health system crumbling under the weight of war:** The few remaining facilities offering maternal healthcare are overstretched and facing acute shortages of essential supplies, while life-saving medicines remain stuck at borders. Pregnant women are forced to risk their lives to reach care, navigating blocked roads and insecurity.
- **Water crisis ignites public health emergency:** With clean water scarce and hygiene supplies depleted, disease is spreading fast in overcrowded shelters. There has been an increase in infections among pregnant women.
- **Protection crisis intensifies as safe spaces close:** With safe spaces shutting down and services shrinking, women and girls face escalating risks of violence and exploitation. Mental health needs are growing, but support is out of reach for most.
- **New aid proposal threatens to shut out the most vulnerable:** A proposed Israeli military-controlled aid delivery plan could strip women and girls of access to food and essential services. The UN has rejected the plan, warning it violates humanitarian principles and obstructs neutral, independent aid at a time of urgent need.
- **West Bank under pressure as violence and restrictions grow:** Increased military operations, movement restrictions, and shrinking humanitarian access are compounding risks for pregnant women and families across the West Bank. The erosion of rights and services continues to accelerate.
- **UNFPA sustains critical support amid an escalating crisis:** In April, UNFPA remained on the ground, reaching over 50,000 people with essential sexual and reproductive health (SRH), gender-based violence (GBV) and youth-focused services across Palestine.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

- The humanitarian situation in Gaza continues to deteriorate at an alarming pace. Since the breakdown of the ceasefire, and after more than 70 days of a total blockade on aid, and systematic attacks on civilian infrastructure, survival is becoming impossible, especially for women, girls, and newborns.
- Israeli-announced large-scale military operations across the Gaza Strip are ongoing, further endangering civilians and paralyzing what remains of the humanitarian response. Since the escalation of hostilities on 18 March 2025, over 428,000 people have been newly displaced. Families are forced into overcrowded shelters or unsafe open areas, with no access to food, water, or medical care.
- Famine is looming. One in five people in Gaza is now facing starvation. According to the [latest IPC analysis](#), 470,000 people, including 11,000 pregnant women, are in IPC Phase 5 (catastrophe). The entire population is expected to face IPC Phase 3 (crisis) or worse by the end of September if a ceasefire is not reinstated and humanitarian aid does not resume at scale. This includes nearly 11,000 pregnant women in Phase 5, approximately 23,000 in Phase 4, and 12,000 in Phase 3.
- Pregnant and breastfeeding women are engaged in a daily battle for survival. Nearly 17,000 will require treatment for acute malnutrition over the next 11 months. Hospitals report a sharp rise in malnourished women and newborns. With meat, fruits, eggs, and dairy products either unavailable or unaffordable, anemia, pregnancy complications, low birth weight, and neonatal deaths are surging. Most newborns are now born underweight. Health workers warn the situation is deteriorating rapidly.

- Only seven hospitals and four field hospitals continue to provide obstetric and newborn care, none of them fully functional. More than half of essential maternal and newborn medicines are out of stock, and life-saving equipment like incubators and ultrasound machines remain stuck at border crossings. Healthcare workers are overwhelmed. One in three pregnancies is now high-risk, and two in ten newborns require specialized care that is increasingly unavailable.
- Water, sanitation, and hygiene services are dangerously insufficient. Most families lack reliable access to clean water and basic hygiene items like soap. Overcrowding in shelters, contaminated water sources, and collapsed health infrastructure have created ideal conditions for disease outbreaks. Seventy-five percent of households reported deteriorating access to water last month, with many forced to choose between showering, cleaning, or cooking. Acute watery diarrhea now accounts for a quarter of disease cases in Gaza.
- Gender-based violence is on the rise. Repeated displacement, unsafe conditions, and the breakdown of social protection have left women and girls increasingly exposed to intimate partner violence, sexual abuse, and child marriage. Three women and girls' safe spaces, providing shelter and services shut down, while the remaining 14 are operating at limited capacity. UNFPA's menstrual hygiene kits and GBV supplies are completely depleted. Survivors face devastating psychological impacts, with [at least 43 women known to have died by suicide in the last four months](#).
- Despite the scale of need, humanitarian access has been strangled. In April alone, 75 per cent of UN missions were denied or impeded. Medical supplies, midwifery kits, and fuel are stuck at borders, while humanitarian actors are being forced to scale back life-saving operations. Israeli authorities have proposed a new "authorization mechanism" for aid delivery, centered around military-controlled distribution hubs with screening procedures. This would place humanitarian aid under de facto military control. If implemented, the plan would dismantle the existing distribution system that currently reaches 2.2 million people and would cut off the most vulnerable, particularly women, girls, and newborns, from life-saving assistance.
- UNFPA has had more than 190 trucks stuck at border crossings for over 10 weeks, loaded with desperately needed supplies for Gaza. These include five containerized maternity units, essential maternal health medicines, including to manage postpartum hemorrhage, portable ultrasound machines, incubators for premature newborns, and critical hygiene and shelter materials.
- In the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, Palestinians are experiencing the most intense Israeli military operations in two decades. Daily raids, mass arrests, the intensification of settler violence, and widespread demolitions have led to large-scale displacement and deepening humanitarian needs. Since the beginning of 2025, tens of thousands of Palestinians have been displaced and remain unable to return to their homes. In northern West Bank refugee camps in particular, Israeli forces continue to use lethal, war-like tactics that have caused mass casualties and the destruction of civilian infrastructure.
- More than 700,000 people across the West Bank are now in need of food assistance, nearly double the number from before October 2023. An estimated 73,000 pregnant women are among those increasingly unable to access basic services such as healthcare, water, and education. Access restrictions have sharply increased, with new roadblocks, checkpoints, and iron gates choking movement, especially in the north and central areas. During the first quarter of 2025, at least nine childbirths took place outside hospitals in Jenin and Tulkarem. These included seven home births—one without any assistance and six attended by midwives—and two deliveries at designated emergency centers, reflecting the growing difficulty women face in reaching safe and timely care.
- The humanitarian space in the West Bank is rapidly shrinking. Israeli policies have increasingly restricted the operations of UN agencies and NGOs through a combination of movement barriers, denial of permits, and new regulations. Visa denials for international staff, suspended entry for national UN personnel into East Jerusalem, and legislative efforts targeting UNRWA and other humanitarian actors are all creating a coercive and obstructive environment. These systemic restrictions are severely impacting the delivery of life-saving services and threatening the already fragile protection system in the West Bank.

UNFPA RESPONSE

In April 2025, UNFPA continued providing life-saving SRH and GBV services across Gaza and the West Bank, amid severe insecurity, a collapsing humanitarian system, and an ongoing aid blockade.

- Over **33,250 people were reached with SRH services**, including maternal health and emergency obstetric care, and postnatal care, through static health facilities, mobile clinics and containerized units. Postpartum kits were provided to mothers and newborns. Essential equipment and high performance medical tents were distributed to support overstretched facilities.
- GBV prevention and response activities, including psychosocial support, case management and referrals to legal and health services, reached over **10,240 individuals**. Dignity kits and cash assistance were provided to those in need. Women and girls' safe spaces remained a vital source of protection and care where operational.
- Adolescents and youth were provided with critical support, with **over 6,600 young people** reached with mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), life-skills education and youth-friendly health initiatives. Youth also participated in community-based peacebuilding and emergency preparedness efforts.

RESULTS SNAPSHOTS



33,250

People reached with **SRH services**



40

Health facilities (*primary healthcare, mobile units, medical points, field hospitals, and hospitals*) supported



16,840





People reached with **GBV services and youth-focused support**










10








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

Gaza Strip

	117	Inter-agency reproductive health kits distributed to 18 health facilities and service delivery points across Northern, Central, and Southern Gaza, with sufficient medical supplies to support 17,360 SRH services, including 2,500 safe births, in the next three months
	4	Fetal dopplers delivered to primary healthcare centres to support antenatal care and fetal monitoring
	8,905	Vials of Oxytocin and Bakri Balloons distributed to health facilities to support the management of postpartum hemorrhage
	6	Containerized maternal health units provided basic and comprehensive emergency obstetric and neonatal care in the Middle Area and Khan Younis, supporting over 4,963 SRH services

	230	Postpartum kits , containing essential hygiene and care items for mothers and newborns, distributed to 460 new mothers in shelters and at hospitals
	5	High performance tents (24m ²) distributed to the Ministry of Health, expanding health service delivery in priority locations
	5	Women and girls' safe spaces reached 7,805 women and girls with multi-sectoral GBV risk mitigation, prevention and response services, including MHPSS, case management, information sessions, and community outreach
	677	Dignity and menstrual hygiene management kits distributed to women and girls
	465	Women received cash and voucher assistance to address their immediate needs, including protection from exploitation and violence
	2,360	Adolescents and youth reached through multipurpose youth centres, youth hubs, and girls' tents with recreational and educational classes, awareness sessions on hygiene, comprehensive life education (CLE), peacebuilding and resilience initiatives, and psychosocial first aid
	477	Youth received psychosocial first aid through the Shubak Al Shabab helpline and the Mostashari application

West Bank

	492,000	Units of pharmaceuticals and medical consumables distributed to health facilities to support the provision of 20,000 SRH services over the next three months
	1,613	People reached with comprehensive SRH services, including breast cancer screenings, SRH information and awareness-raising activities, through five UNFPA-supported mobile clinics in Area C and Northern West Bank
	5	Women and girls' safe spaces reached 1,270 women and girls with GBV risk mitigation, prevention, and response services, including MHPSS, case management and information sessions
	20	Health and educational service providers and non-specialized youth educators trained on adolescent and youth health friendly services focusing on SRH/GBV/MHPSS
	1,000	Adolescent kits distributed to support affected adolescent girls and boys. These kits include hygiene supplies, educational materials, and protection tools to help adolescents maintain dignity and safety
	2,705	Youth accessed youth-friendly health services and CLE, and participated in awareness-raising activities, and peacebuilding and resilience initiatives
	50	Youth trained in emergency preparedness, response and peace resilience

COORDINATION MECHANISMS



Gender-based Violence:

UNFPA continued to lead GBV coordination across Palestine, adapting response efforts amid worsening conditions. In April, the GBV Area of Responsibility finalized the Guidance Note on GBV Case Management, developed with input from the Coordination Team and frontline service providers. UNFPA also introduced new tools to support confidential client data collection, ensuring safer record-keeping for reporting and operational purposes. Coordination efforts also included an inter-agency session with the MHPSS Working Group to enhance integrated support for survivors, and the publication of a [GBV snapshot](#) summarizing key trends in Gaza from December 2024 to March 2025.



Sexual and reproductive health:

UNFPA continues to lead the Sexual and Reproductive Health Working Group (SRHWG) under the Health Cluster, coordinating partners to maintain essential SRH services amid escalating challenges. An online refresher session was conducted on the Gaza Essential Service Package for SRHR.



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.

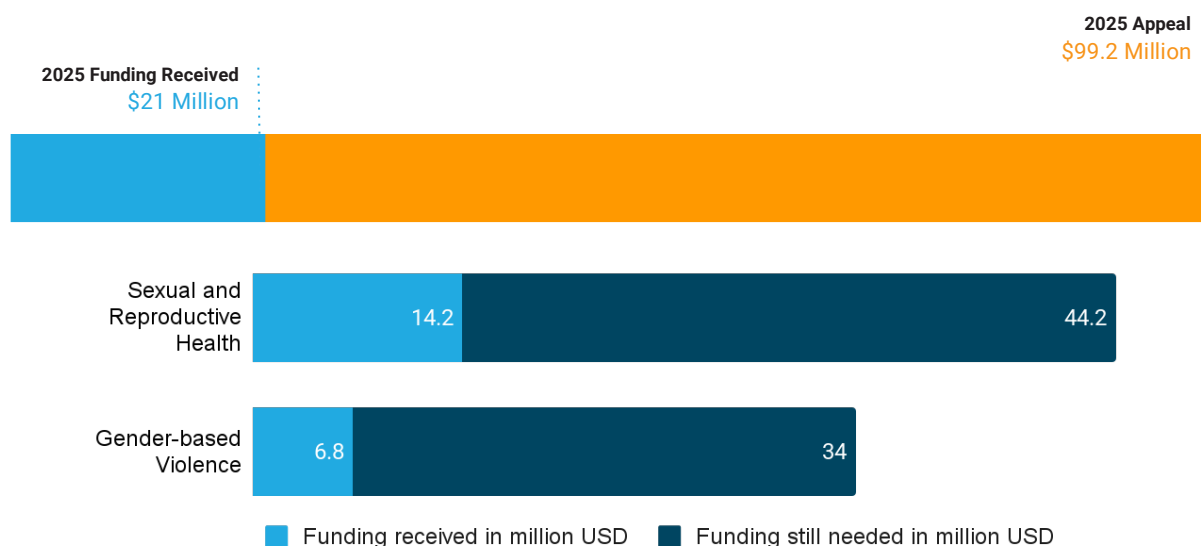


Other working groups

UNFPA leads the Mobile Clinic Working Group, redirecting services to 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. As of May 2025, UNFPA has received **\$21 million**. An additional **\$78.2 million** is urgently needed to support UNFPA's operational response through December 2025.



We extend our heartfelt appreciation to all 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 have supported UNFPA's response since October 2023.



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