



# War on Gaza: the massacre continues

Palestinians walk past children looking at the damage caused by Israeli bombardment early on the town of al-Zawaida in the Deir al-Balah governorate in central Gaza, where many civilians from other parts of the besieged strip had taken refuge, May 22, 2024.

Photo by Omar Ashtawy ©APAIMAGES

## SITUATION UPDATE

"The situation in Gaza remains beyond catastrophic," stated the WHO Director-General on May 21<sup>st</sup>.

More than 40% of Gaza's population has been displaced over the past two weeks, many of whom had already been displaced multiple times. Rafah ground offensive has already caused the new displacement of 900,000 people, forcibly relocating to areas lacking basic necessities such as shelter, water and food. Fuel shortages persist, negatively affecting access to basic essential services, including potable water, and primary healthcare facilities.

The entry and the delivery of humanitarian aid has been almost blocked since the Rafah ground offensive and the siege of the crossings by Israel since May 7<sup>th</sup>. With Rafah crossing being closed, approximately 2,000 trucks are waiting to bring in humanitarian supplies. Trucks arriving from Jordan/ West Bank have been attacked by settlers on their way to Kerem Shalom creating additional blockages to aid delivery.

**1.7 million people (75% of the entire population of the Strip) have been displaced multiple times** and are living in desperate conditions. 1.1 million people face catastrophic levels of food insecurity. Famine is imminent in the northern part of the Gaza Strip and the entire population is facing crisis levels of food insecurity or worse. According to UNICEF, 50,400 children under five years old are suffering from acute malnutrition.

Almost 8 months of relentless and continuous military onslaught has killed over 35,000 people, mostly civilians. The injured people are estimated to be over 80,000. In addition, it is estimated that 10,000 are still trapped under the rubble. The numbers tell us that **at least 5% of the total population of the Gaza Strip has been injured or killed**. Every ten minutes, one child is killed or injured. Moreover, it must be underlined that this death toll does not include those who have died due to lack of medicines and life-saving treatments.

Civilian infrastructures have not been spared and are no longer able to provide essential services. The indiscriminate bombing of hospitals, schools, UN and INGO facilities, and residential buildings have caused massive destruction. +70,000 of housing units have been destroyed and out of 36 hospitals, **only 15 are partially functional**, while 21 are out of service.

	Killed	Injured	Displaced
<b>Gaza</b>	35,800	80,200	1,700,000
<b>West Bank</b>	512	+5,000	1,700
<b>of which children</b>	+15,000	+38,000	850,000

### Education

The absence of schooling in the Gaza Strip, continues to deprive **625,000 children** of opportunities for their social, emotional, and cognitive development. Without sufficient aid, these children are at risk of dropping permanently out of school, rendering them vulnerable to exploitation, child labour, early marriage, and other forms of abuse. More than 6,500 students and 301 educational staff have been killed. 483 out of all 563 schools sustained damage, which represent 86% of all school facilities, and **more than 72% will need full reconstruction or major rehabilitation work to be functional again**.

### West Bank

Since October 7<sup>th</sup>, military operations in the West Bank have escalated. **Israeli forces have killed hundreds of Palestinians, including 127 children**. 75% of the fatalities occurred during Israeli forces' search-and-arrest operations and other military activities. Israeli forces' use of airstrikes, attack helicopters, anti-tank missiles, shoulder-fired explosive projectiles, and other weapons of war, has continued to increase, with lethal consequences.

## OUR INTERVENTION IN GAZA

WeWorld continues emergency operations focusing on **providing life-saving water, sanitation and hygiene services in IDPs sites** and to scattered displaced population. Up to date, **WeWorld has been able to reach over 250,000 people, the majority being children and women**, through the distribution of water, construction and maintenance of latrines, distribution of hygiene kits and NFI, hygiene campaigns, and environmental cleaning (including waste collection and disposal). The activities have been focused in the more crowded and vulnerable areas, such as IDPs sites, UNRWA shelters, hospitals, schools, and camps. WeWorld is also planning an imminent **food distribution** to tackle the food shortage and widespread forced starvation.

The Organization implemented its **contingency and business continuity plan** which includes the evacuation of its staff members from Rafah to the Middle Area, and the adaptation of the response to the new context. **WeWorld continues to operate and to deliver humanitarian assistance**.

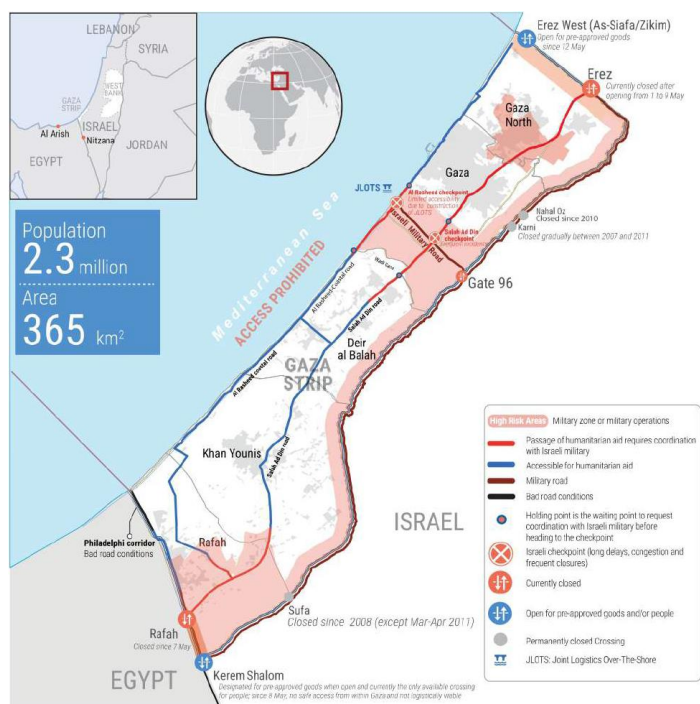
**Its operational capacity** inside Gaza consists of a team composed of +20 staff, +60 daily workers, 2 warehouses to stock emergency response items and 1 office. The Gaza Emergency Team temporarily deployed in Amman, Jordan, and the Humanitarian Aid Unit, are coordinating and supporting the response.

WeWorld has been present in Palestine since 1992, to seek solutions to a long-standing crisis, funded mainly by the European Commission, the Italian Agency, the UN and cooperation agencies of different countries, and ChildFund Alliance.

## APPEAL AND ADVOCACY WORK

WeWorld developed a **Gaza Response Plan** to share and coordinate the response within the ChildFund Alliance and with other partners, including a detailed response and an appeal.

ChildFund Alliance and WeWorld are among the promoters of the international appeal and petition [#ceasefireNow](#) and working with main humanitarian actors to strongly call for an immediate and lasting ceasefire. On its social networks, WeWorld launched the campaign to invite individuals to sign the petition, donate and share.



Gaza Strip, Humanitarian access constraints, May 2024, OCHA

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