

## Humanitarian needs deepen under access constraints and infrastructure destruction

Breaking fast amid ruins: a Palestinian family shares Iftar on the roof of their home destroyed in Gaza City, confronting displacement, scarcity, and the harsh realities of war GAZA City, Feb. 2026 ©APA

This Flash Update was prepared by WeWorld.

*“When we agreed on specific times and places to collect the waste, everyone felt they were part of the solution. Even the children reminded their families to take the trash to the designated points. It wasn’t just about cleaning the camp; it was about working together and taking care of each other.”*

**Mohammed Enshasi, Hygiene Daily Worker -Khan Yunis**

### SITUATION UPDATE

Despite the October 2025 ceasefire, hostilities continue to be reported across the Gaza Strip, including airstrikes, shelling and gunfire resulting in ongoing civilian casualties. **Nearly 100 Palestinians have been killed since the ceasefire.** The Israeli military remains deployed in over half of the Strip beyond the “Yellow Line”, where access to humanitarian facilities is either restricted or prohibited. Displacement is widespread, with about **96% of families forced to leave their homes at least once.**

Many live in overcrowded and unsafe shelters, with limited access to water, sanitation, hygiene, and electricity, driving hunger and disease.

Following the ceasefire, movement patterns shifted, with significant returns from southern areas toward Gaza City and northern governorates. According to OCHA, **over 650,000 movements** were recorded between October and early December 2025. Large areas of the north and Gaza City remain heavily destroyed, largely uninhabitable and contaminated by debris and unexploded ordnance.

Humanitarian needs remain overwhelming. Nearly **2.1 million people** require urgent assistance. Access constraints, fuel shortages and damaged infrastructure continue to undermine service delivery across sectors.

**Education has collapsed** at scale, with over **97% of schools damaged** and many repurposed as shelters, leaving hundreds of thousands of children without safe learning environments and exacerbating psychosocial distress. Without sustained, child-centred and multi-sectoral assistance, the **risk of irreversible harm to an entire generation remains acute.**

**WASH and sanitation needs remain critical.** Around **80% of water infrastructure is damaged** or requires repair, wastewater treatment and solid waste facilities are largely non-operational. Fuel shortages and restricted access have left families with severely limited access to safe toilets, washing facilities, and basic hygiene items. In overcrowded shelters and damaged neighborhoods, the absence of adequate bathrooms forces reliance on unsafe, shared or makeshift solutions, **increasing health risks and protection concerns.**

Children are paying the highest price, exposed to hunger, disease, injury, disability, disrupted education, psychological distress and unsafe living conditions, **with impacts that extend far beyond the immediate crisis.** These compounded impacts risk causing **lasting and intergenerational harm**, underscoring the urgent need for **sustained, child-centered humanitarian assistance**, to prevent irreversible damage to an entire generation.



**KEY DATA**

WEWORLD INTERVENTIONS 16.01.2026 - 28.02.2026



**+19,360**

of whom +9,100 are children

People provided with water

**+26,000**

of whom +12,220 are children

People benefiting from Sanitary cleaning in Health Care Facilities

**+22,280**

of whom +10,470 are children

People benefiting from solid waste collection in IDP camps

**+2,100**

Families supported with hygiene kits and dignity kits

**+1,360**

Families supported with soap, shampoo and anti-lice shampoo

**+3,100**

of whom +1,480 are children

People benefiting from the construction of family latrines

**+670**

Families supported with baby diapers

**+3,400**

Children currently enrolled in TLSs for remedial education, SEL and PSS during the school year

**+5,400**

of whom +2,890 are children

People attending hygiene promotion sessions & open days

**+1,160**

Families supported with hand washing stations

## WEWORLD INTERVENTION

Between 16 January and 28 February 2026, while children faced extreme deprivation, repeated displacement, and collapsing services, WeWorld delivered life-saving support across Gaza.

Since then, WeWorld supplied safe water to **+19,360** people, including **~9,100** children. We distributed **+2,100** hygiene and dignity kits, as well as **+1400** packs of baby diapers. Hygiene promotion activities reached **+5,400** people, half of them are children. Solid-waste collection in displacement sites served **+22,280** people, including **~10,470** children, reducing disease risks in overcrowded shelters and camps. Furthermore, we installed handwashing stations for **+1160 families**.



To address high child protection and psychosocial needs, WeWorld prioritized safe and inclusive learning. Education activities run across **12 Temporary Learning Spaces**, reaching **~3,400** children through 72 teachers integrating SEL into remedial classes. Daily on-the-job coaching is in place in every TLS, with focal points observing sessions, providing immediate feedback, and guiding staff on SEL delivery and use of diagnostic tools.

Additionally, **36 psychologists** provide daily PSS sessions, deliver small-group and one-to-one support, and coordinate referrals for higher-need cases. During the period, WeWorld through its partner Teacher Creative Center delivered 3,400 PSS kits across **10 TLSs to sustain SEL and PSS activities** for enrolled children. During the reporting period we also held 12 caregiver sessions on stress management and positive coping, reaching **+630** caregivers, all women, and promoting safer routines at home.



All interventions use participatory, community-driven approaches. With community volunteers helping identify priorities, monitoring needs, guiding hygiene promotion, and adapting services to sites.

Child-friendly and age-appropriate methods ensure that children, adolescents, and caregivers help shape activities and improve living conditions.

Despite a volatile context, WeWorld continues to operate at scale, consolidate operations and prepare for expansion. A team of **200+** staff and daily workers across two offices and two warehouses, maintaining presence across all governorates and enabling flexible WASH, education and protection programming. Three decades of presence in Palestine support rapid adaptation and outreach to highly vulnerable groups in newly established displacement sites.

### Environmental cleaning activities in Khan Yunis displacements camps

The massive influx of displaced families into overcrowded shelters and informal camps has placed severe strain on already damaged sewage infrastructure, leading to daily solid waste accumulation and heightened public health risks, including the spread of waterborne diseases. Strengthening sanitation services in Gaza, particularly waste collection, is critical to safeguarding health, preserving dignity, and preventing further humanitarian deterioration.

In response, WeWorld launched a sanitation initiative in the displacement camps of Khan Younis. **The project recruited 25 sanitation workers**, strategically deployed according to camp population density, to collect, sort, and safely dispose of accumulated waste. In addition, workers supported the rehabilitation of access roads to facilitate the safe entry of water trucks and humanitarian aid.

The intervention **directly improved hygiene conditions for displaced families** in Khan Younis, while also providing temporary income to the recruited workers during a period of acute economic hardship. Beyond its immediate impact, the project fostered a strong sense of community ownership, even after the official activities concluded, several workers continued cleaning voluntarily, driven by a shared commitment to protecting the health and dignity of their neighbors.

## PROPOSED WAY FORWARD

Priority will be given to emergency WASH services to reduce public health risks in overcrowded displacement sites and damaged neighborhoods.

Activities will focus on increasing water availability through the rehabilitation of water wells, desludging services and improved solid-waste collection, together with the rapid construction of latrines and basic washing facilities.

Where possible, locally available and upcycled materials will be used, including reused pallets and salvaged materials for latrine structures and basic furniture, to expand coverage despite limited access to supplies.

Hygiene promotion will remain a key component of the response, with a focus on daily hygiene practices within households and addressing children as well. Community-based awareness sessions will promote handwashing, safe sanitation use, menstrual hygiene management and disease prevention, while addressing gaps in access to toilets and washing facilities, especially for women, girls and persons with disabilities.

To address the impact of prolonged displacement and school disruption, WeWorld will expand Temporary Learning Spaces and child-friendly protection spaces. Remedial and catch-up education, Social and Emotional Learning and basic psychosocial support will be scaled up for children who have been out of school for extended periods.



Education activities will be directly linked with WASH in Education interventions, ensuring learning spaces are supported by functional, gender-responsive latrines, handwashing facilities and hygiene promotion.

Community-based structures, including Local Health and Hygiene Committees and community volunteers, will be strengthened to identify needs, monitor service gaps, promote safe hygiene practices and support referrals. Light rehabilitation of WASH infrastructure, schools and child-focused spaces will support safer access to basic services and act as a first step toward early recovery, while preparing for a broader transition when conditions allow.

**Sustained donor support, together with expanded aid channels and a significant increase in aid flow, are essential to enable WeWorld to maintain and scale these life-saving interventions, prevent further deterioration of the humanitarian situation and lay the foundations for early recovery once conditions allow.**

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