



CENTER FOR CONFLICT AND
HUMANITARIAN STUDIES

Report

The Gaza Strip Amidst Genocide and Displacement: «Mapping Two Years of Systematic Warfare»

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«Mapping Two Years of Systematic Warfare»

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Introduction

Two years after the launch of Israel's intensive assault on the Gaza Strip in October 2023, the territory continues to experience one of the most acute humanitarian crises globally. The impact of the war extends beyond direct military operations, encompassing the systematic destruction of vital infrastructure and the collapse of social and economic systems, creating humanitarian conditions described by the United Nations as “unprecedented.”¹ Amidst ongoing military operations and the absence of any prospect for a permanent ceasefire, more than (2.3) million Palestinians live in a deteriorating environment that places their very survival at existential risk.

Statistics as of October 2025 indicate that more than (68,122) civilians have been killed, including around (18,500) children and (12,400) women, in addition to thousands missing whose fate remains unknown. Additionally, the number of wounded has risen to more than (200,000),² amidst the near-total collapse of the health sector, with most hospitals no longer functioning at full capacity. Beyond the mass killing, the population also faces large-scale internal displacement as (1.9) million people have been forced to leave their homes under compulsory evacuation orders—now living in overcrowded camps or temporary shelters lacking the most basic necessities of life.

This has been accompanied by extensive destruction of vital infrastructure—including housing, education, health, electricity, water, and telecommunications—resulting in the near-complete paralysis of people's ability to access basic services, whilst exacerbating poverty and unemployment rates. The impact of the aggression has not been confined to physical infrastructure but has also undermined the Palestinian social fabric, with repeated forced displacements imposed on residents and civil society institutions subjected to targeting and restrictions. These policies have led UN experts to describe the situation in Gaza as “genocide.”³

A comparison between 2024 and 2025 reveals an escalating trajectory in the scale of the humanitarian catastrophe: by the end of the first year of the assault, the number of civilian deaths had reached (41,909), including (16,927) children, alongside more than (97,000) wounded and around 10,000 missing.⁴ On the humanitarian front, the population moved from a state of near-total food insecurity in 2024 to the declaration of famine in Gaza City in 2025, whilst nearly (85) percent of households remained below the multidimensional poverty line and unemployment exceeded three-quarters of the labour force.⁵

This report, issued after two full years of aggression, offers a comprehensive and in-depth analysis of the humanitarian reality in the Gaza Strip. It documents how Israel's genocidal war has crippled infrastructure and vital facilities, the conditions of forced displacement that have uprooted the vast majority of the population, and the repercussions of this war on livelihoods, poverty, unemployment, and the collapse of the broader social system. The report draws on UN and humanitarian organisations' assessments in Gaza as primary sources, in addition to interviews with experts and specialists across various sectors, as well as testimonies collected from civilians and displaced persons across the Strip to capture their living conditions.

1 United Nations News, “UN: Intensified Attacks on Gaza City Will Push Civilians into a Deeper Catastrophe,” United Nations News, August 2025, Accessed September 7, 2025. (In Arabic)

2 Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, Martyrs (PCBS webpage), State of Palestine, Accessed on 06 October 2025.

3 Francesca Albanese, From Economy of Occupation to Economy of Genocide: Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967 (A/HRC/59/23), (Geneva: United Nations Human Rights Council, 16 June 2025).

4 “South Africa vs Israel: 13 Other Countries Intend to Join the ICJ Case,” United Nations Western Europe, 2 July 2024.

5 United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), “As famine looms in Gaza, pregnant women and newborns face life-threatening health risks,” UNFPA, 19 May 2025.

The report's first section dedicates chapters to documenting the near-total collapse of the health and education systems and the resulting disruption of basic services, in addition to the water security crisis and the deterioration of the sanitation sector—all of which have deepened the community's vulnerability and threatened its essential foundations of survival.

The second section highlights the genocidal character of the aggression, analysing the policy of systematic starvation that has turned food, water, and medicine into weapons of war, culminating in the declaration of famine in Gaza City and critical hunger levels in other parts of the Strip. It further addresses the destruction of humanitarian space and the targeting of relief organisations—including humanitarian workers—due to Israeli restrictions and direct attacks. The report also examines the new humanitarian aid mechanism imposed under the supervision of the occupying forces, and the legal and humanitarian issues it raises, alongside an analysis of economic policies described as a form of “genocidal economy,” exposing the complicity of global corporations and their profiteering from the ongoing war.

The report concludes that what is unfolding in Gaza extends beyond a systematic war; it constitutes a comprehensive project of genocide that targets Palestinian existence in its livelihood, economic, and cultural dimensions. This places before the international community an urgent responsibility to act swiftly to halt grave violations of international law, ensure accountability, and achieve justice in the future.

A faint, large-scale watermark of Arabic calligraphy is visible across the entire page. The calligraphy is in a dark brown or olive green color and appears to be a stylized representation of a religious or historical text, possibly related to the Basmala (Bismillah).

Part One

The Humanitarian Reality in the Gaza Strip After Two Years of Aggression

1.1 Infrastructure and Vital Facilities

Since the outbreak of the war in October 2023, the Gaza Strip has witnessed large-scale destruction encompassing infrastructure and all vital sectors. According to the Interim Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment Report (IRDNA) issued by the World Bank, the European Union (EU), and the United Nations (UN), the value of losses inflicted on infrastructure and vital facilities reached around (49) billion USD by February 2025. The value of direct physical damage was estimated at about (29.9) billion USD, whilst indirect economic and social losses amounted to about (19.1) billion USD. This demonstrates the catastrophic impact of the war on all aspects of life in Gaza, including economic, social, educational, and humanitarian.⁶

These losses resulted from the direct targeting of infrastructure in housing, health, education, economy, and sanitation, in addition to telecommunications, electricity, and banking sectors. This led to the accumulation of more than (26) million tons of rubble, according to preliminary estimates issued in April 2024. Subsequent updates showed the accumulation ranging between (40) and (53) million tons by mid-2024 and early 2025, based on satellite surveys and analyses by United Nations Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNOSAT) and United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR).⁷

"UN data indicates that these massive amounts of rubble require long-term and costly removal processes and are associated with multiple environmental and health risks."

UN data indicates that these massive amounts of rubble require long-term and costly removal processes and are associated with multiple environmental and health risks, including exposure to asbestos fibres, unexploded missile remnants, and various forms of pollution. This leaves a direct and obstructive impact on residents' daily lives and exacerbates challenges related to reconstruction and the sustainability of basic services.⁸

The housing sector in Gaza sustained extensive damage as a result of the war, with estimates indicating that by February 2025, nearly (463,000) housing units were damaged or completely destroyed, representing (61.8) percent of the total housing units before the war.⁹ According to the World Bank report, about (45) percent of residential buildings were completely destroyed, and rehabilitating the housing sector alone will require about (15.2) billion USD.¹⁰

The economic sector in Gaza witnessed near-total collapse, with more than (80) percent of industrial and commercial facilities disrupted, and basic economic activities halted. According to the World Bank, the widespread material losses deprived the local economy of its ability to generate sustainable income and production.

In the water and sanitation sector, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs" followed by "(OCHA) warned of the risk of disease outbreaks due to reliance on contaminated water and the shutdown of most desalination plants, with (96) percent of the population in southern Gaza facing water cuts due to fuel shortages.¹¹

This damage was accompanied by total collapse of the ecosystem, as (73) out of (84) pumping stations were

6 The World Bank, European Union, and United Nations. Gaza and West Bank Interim Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment (IRDNA), February 2025. Washington, DC: World Bank, 2025.

7 United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Gaza Humanitarian Situation Update #311, 6 July 2025.

8 Ibid.

9 United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Humanitarian Situation Update #271 – Gaza Strip. UN, February 2025.

10 Ibid.

11 Ibid.

destroyed, including about (650,000) meters of networks.¹² This caused untreated wastewater to flow into residential neighbourhoods, increasing the risks of diseases associated with contaminated water.¹³

The joint assessment by the World Bank, the EU, and the UN showed that about (85) percent of the road network in Gaza City alone was damaged or destroyed,¹⁴ and UNOSAT analysis revealed that about (1,190) km of roads were completely destroyed and (415) km severely damaged.¹⁵ According to Gaza Municipality, its network of about (900) km saw a large part collapse, wherein (42) percent was completely destroyed and (14) percent partially damaged,¹⁶ causing widespread geographical isolation and the suspension of basic transport services.

Gaza's electricity sector losses exceeded (700) million USD, with roughly (85) percent of power generation plants and transmission networks destroyed since October 2023. Renewable energy projects also sustained damage of about (80) megawatts, forcing residents to rely on small generators, batteries, and solar panels. About (80) percent of Gaza's telecommunications assets, including towers and technical equipment, were also damaged, with direct losses estimated at around (164) million USD,¹⁷ leading to widespread network outages and disruption of humanitarian, educational, and banking services, forcing residents to depend on limited alternatives such as eSIMs and satellite communications.

Reports also indicate that Gaza's banking sector incurred losses estimated at about (60) percent, affecting bank infrastructure and ATMs,¹⁸ with partial or complete suspension of services. Due to liquidity shortages, cash withdrawal fees through apps and merchants increased to (52) percent.¹⁹



People moving on foot and by vehicle after the destruction of infrastructure in northern Gaza. Photo credit: Unsplash, Mohammed Ibrahim, July 2025.

¹² "Water Authority: 85% of Water and Sanitation Facilities Destroyed in the Gaza Strip," Palestinian News Agency – WAFA, February 12, 2025. (In Arabic)

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ World Bank, European Union, and United Nations, Gaza and West Bank Interim Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment, February 2025.

¹⁵ UNOSAT, Gaza Satellite-Based Road Network Damage Assessment, mid-2025.

¹⁶ Gaza Municipality, "Severe Damage to the Road Network Requires Urgent Rehabilitation Efforts," Gaza Municipality, July 1, 2025. (in Arabic).

¹⁷ Palestinian Ministry of Telecommunications and Economy, Estimated Losses in the Telecommunications Sector after the Conflict, 2025. (in Arabic).

¹⁸ "Gaza: Israeli Strikes Destroyed 93% of Bank Branches," Al Jazeera Net, December 17, 2024, Accessed August 31, 2025. (in Arabic)

¹⁹ "Gaza in the Grip of a 'Shadow Economy': Cash Shortage Devastates Citizens amid a Silent Financial War," Euronews, August 4, 2025, Accessed August 20, 2025. (in Arabic).

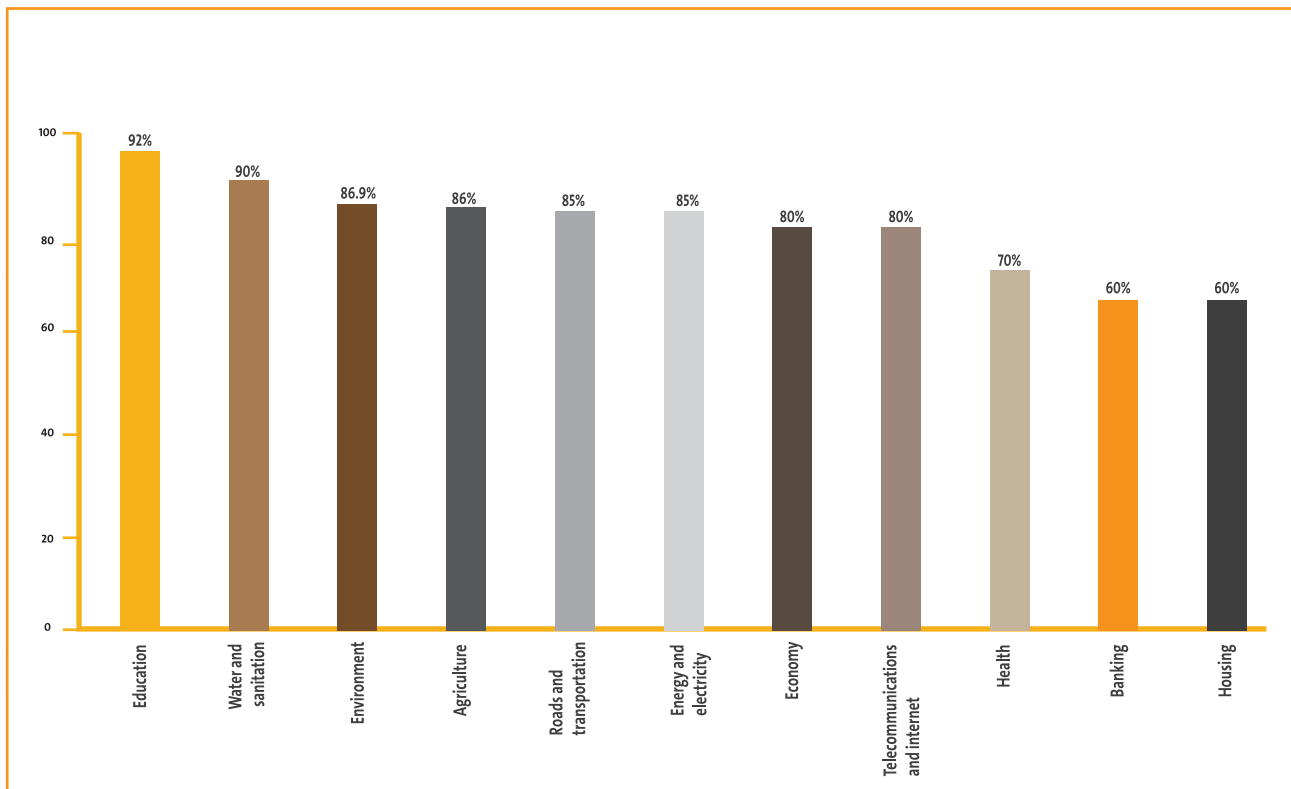
The destruction caused by Israeli attacks since October 2023 was not limited to the aforementioned sectors but also extended to major cultural, historical, and religious sites. In the Old City, the Great Omari Mosque—one of the most important religious and archaeological sites for the people of Gaza—and the historic Pasha's Palace were destroyed during Israeli ground operations in December 2023, with most of their structures demolished and artifacts stolen. The Palestinian Ministry of Awqaf and Religious Affairs documented the destruction of about (966) mosques during 2024, (815) completely and (151) partially, in addition to a limited number of historic cemeteries and churches.²⁰

The widespread destruction of Palestinian infrastructure and vital facilities in the Gaza Strip has led to an almost complete paralysis of daily life. The ability of Palestinians in Gaza to move and access essential services has been severely disrupted, whilst the internal displacement crisis has deepened as hundreds of thousands lost their homes. This crisis has further exacerbated poverty and unemployment rates and increased dependence on humanitarian assistance—levels that were already alarmingly high since the imposition of the blockade on Gaza in 2007.

Table (1): Percentages of Infrastructure Damage by Governorates of the Strip and Estimated Value of Losses in USD

#	Governorates of the Gaza Strip	Area in square kilometres before October 2023	Percentage of the value of damages	Estimated value of direct damages in dollars (in billions)	Percentage of total destruction of infrastructure and vital facilities
1.	North Gaza governorate	60.9	82%	5,480	%18.33
2.	Gaza governorate	74.6	85%	11,549	38.64%
3.	Deir al-Balah (Central) governorate	56.7	80%	3,649	12.21%
4.	Khan Yunis governorate	109.7	83%	5,809	19.43%
5.	Rafah governorate	63.1	81%	3,414	11.42%
	Total	365		29,901	

²⁰ "Between Theft and Destruction: Archaeological Sites Victimized by Israel's Gaza Extermination (Report)," Anadolu Agency, March 1, 2025, Accessed August 20, 2025. (in Arabic).

Figure (1): Estimates of Economic, Physical, and Social Losses of Israeli Aggression After Two Years

1.2 Shelter and Forced Displacement

The Israeli occupation forces have also escalated their forced displacement efforts. In October 2024, the occupation forces tightened their blockade on Gaza City and the North Gaza Governorates, aiming to displace (400,000) Palestinians who had remained in their locations since the start of the war. During this period, the road connecting the northern and southern parts of the Strip was closed, and Palestinians were prohibited from using the Salah al-Din and Al-Rashid roads, which were necessary for movement between parts of the Strip. Simultaneously, occupation forces were stationed at what is called the “Netzarim Corridor,” further inhibiting movement.²¹ Evacuation orders during this period covered (85) percent of the total area of the Strip, and the number of displaced persons reached approximately (1.9) million Palestinians.²²

Displacement conditions changed following the ceasefire agreement signed on January 20, 2025, which allowed Palestinians to return to specific areas of Gaza, including its northern region, and Khan Yunis, whilst the Rafah area remained a “dangerous combat zone.” The Israeli occupation forces violated the ceasefire agreement on March 18, 2025, after which the war continued at the same pace, resulting in the displacement of (500,000) Palestinians within one month of its resumption. The displaced were spread across makeshift tents on roads, in schools, or hosted by relatives who still had houses.²³ In May, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) reported that (23) evacuation orders had been issued since the resumption of the war, rendering (146) square kilometres of the Strip as military areas from which residents were displaced.²⁴

²¹ Human Rights Watch, “North Gaza: Between Death and Displacement.” Human Rights Watch, 18 October 2024, Accessed 1 September 2025.

²² Ibid.

²³ United Nations News, “Gaza: Continued Displacement, Depletion of Shelter Supplies, and Rising Malnutrition Rates,” United Nations News, April 2025, Accessed September 1, 2025. (in Arabic).

²⁴ UNRWA. UNRWA Situation Report #171 on the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. 16 May 2025.

This included (100) percent of Rafah Governorate, (84) percent and (78) percent of North Gaza and Gaza City Governorates respectively, (51) percent of Khan Yunis Governorate, and (41) percent of Deir al-Balah City.²⁵

In the final weeks of August 2025, the Israeli occupation forces announced preparations for a major military operation in Gaza City, instructing residents to evacuate the city toward what the army called the “humanitarian zone,” designated in Al-Mawas area west of Khan Yunis, using Al-Rashid Street parallel to the coast. Residents affected by military operations in the eastern and

"A report by Human Rights Watch indicated that an analysis of Israeli evacuation orders and attacks on safe zones demonstrates that these orders constituted forced displacement, which is considered a war crime."

southern parts of the city moved to the western coastal strip of Gaza City, despite it being included in the evacuation plan,²⁶ due to overcrowding at displacement sites in the southern Strip, lack of safe areas, or any potential return plans.²⁷ This military operation coincided with Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz's declaration on the necessity of moving residents from Gaza to a proposed humanitarian zone in Rafah, as part of different plans for taking over Gaza, installing a non-Palestinian administration, and displacing its population.²⁸ In the final week of August, this translated into a series of evacuation orders affecting approximately (200,000)–(250,000) Gaza City residents, requiring their immediate evacuation, concentrated in the eastern and southern parts of the city.²⁹

As of September 2025, (82) percent of the Gaza Strip's territory was under evacuation orders or designated by Israeli forces as military zones. Reports indicate that between August 14 and September 23, more than (388,400) cases of displacement were recorded from Gaza City toward the areas of Deir al-Balah and Khan Yunis—an average of approximately (9,700) displacements per day.³⁰ A report by Human Rights Watch indicated that an analysis of Israeli evacuation orders and attacks on “safe zones” demonstrates that these orders constituted forced displacement, which is considered a war crime.³¹ This is affirmed by statements from Israeli officials regarding their intent to forcibly displace Palestinians from the Gaza Strip.³²

On the ground, the situation is extremely volatile, with forced displacement occurring under fire in the northern and eastern neighbourhoods. Since the beginning of September 2025, this has been accompanied by systematic Israeli shelling of high-rise buildings in Gaza City, causing many families to lose their homes within moments.³³

This coincides with the Israeli authorities' announcement on August 17, 2025, of their intention to lift the ban on non-food humanitarian aid, including (86,000 tents), one million tarpaulins, and five million non-food items that had been previously blocked. However, according to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), this decision has not been implemented on the ground.³⁴

²⁵ Ibid.

²⁶ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA oPt), Humanitarian Situation Update #319 | Gaza Strip, 4 September 2025.

²⁷ Human Rights Watch, “North Gaza: Between Death and Displacement.”

²⁸ Davidi Tawfiles, and Mohamed Reyad Zughbur, “Health Consequences of Forced Displacements from Gaza,” *Nature Medicine*, 15 August 2025.

²⁹ UNRWA, UNRWA Situation Report #186 on the Humanitarian Crisis in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, 1 September 2025.

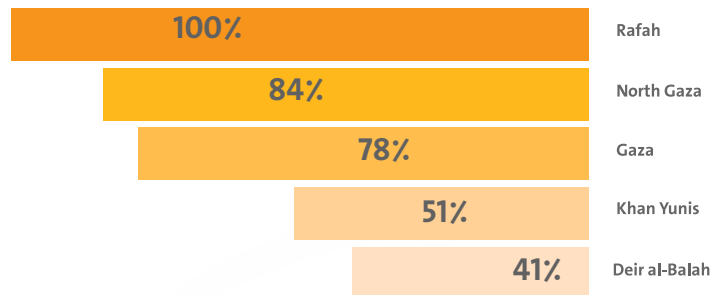
³⁰ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Humanitarian Situation Update #326 – Gaza Strip. UN, September 2025.

³¹ Human Rights Watch, “Hopeless, Starving, and Besieged”: Israel's Forced Displacement of Palestinians in Gaza, 14 November 2024.

³² Ibid.

³³ Bashar Abu Zakry, “One Tower Equals an Entire Neighborhood: This Is How the Occupation Destroys Gaza City,” *Al Jazeera Net*, September 2025, Accessed September 7, 2025. (in Arabic).

³⁴ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA oPt), Humanitarian Situation Update #319 | Gaza Strip.

Figure (2): Losses of Vital Sectors in the Gaza Strip During Two Years of War

The Rimal area in Gaza City heavily congested with displaced persons' tents. Photo credit: Unsplash, Mohammed Ibrahim, July 2025.

1.3 Livelihoods, Poverty, and Unemployment

Estimates by the World Bank and the International Labor Organization indicate that the Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip, coupled with the closure of crossings and targeting of vital economic facilities, has resulted in a severe economic crisis, clearly reflected in the decline of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), and the rise of poverty levels and unemployment rates. Data shows that approximately (85) percent of the population lives below the multidimensional poverty line, whilst unemployment exceeds three-quarters of the labour force, reflecting the diminution of the local economy.³⁵

The Strip's GDP declined sharply from (70) percent in mid-2023 to less than (25) percent by mid-2025, accompanied by a sharp rise in unemployment and poverty rates. This deterioration is due to the complex nature of the war-induced crisis, which not only destroyed infrastructure and productive activities but also disrupted supply chains and halted internal and external trade, exacerbated further by the closure of Rafah Crossing on May 7, 2024, after the military operation in Rafah in southern Gaza—wherein the Israeli occupation took control of the Palestinian side of the crossing. Karem Abu Salem Crossing was also closed for security reasons, preventing the entry of humanitarian and medical aid into the Strip.³⁶

My salary barely covers the family's basic needs. With the rising cost of living and the closure of banks, our only option has been to use banking applications to receive money from merchants—but with extremely high fees that sometimes reach half the amount. In the end, I receive less than half of my actual salary. The suffering doesn't stop there, because even the banknotes we receive are often worn out and rejected by shops, which makes it even harder to secure the household's essentials. Each passing day brings greater psychological pressure and constant anxiety, as we feel powerless to meet even the simplest necessities of life."

Testimony of (M.D.), an employee of the Palestinian National Authority, residing in Nuseirat Camp in the central Gaza Strip, and a father of six. Interview date: 08/09/2025.

Since the start of the Israeli aggression in October 2023, the prices of basic commodities in Gaza have risen exponentially due to crossing closures and destruction of infrastructure.³⁷ According to the World Bank, the consumer price index increased by (238) percent during 2024, driven by rising food prices and transportation costs.³⁸

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), food prices increased by (3,000) percent between February and April 2025 due to the destruction of (98.5) percent of agricultural land, closure of crossings, and scarcity of aid. The rise in commodity prices, poverty, and unemployment has caused significant psychological pressure on families and negatively impacted their social and economic stability.³⁹

Local authorities and humanitarian organisations intensified aid distribution efforts to alleviate residents' suffering. A report by OCHA indicated that approximately (1.8) million people received direct food assistance in 2024. International agencies such as the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Red Cross also provided emergency cash assistance to the most affected families.⁴⁰

Families in the Gaza Strip face a cash flow crisis to meet their needs, and the targeting of banks has exacerbated the financial difficulties of the population, with approximately (93) percent of bank branches destroyed, leading

35 World Bank Group, World Bank Economic Monitoring Report: Impacts of the Conflict in the Middle East on the Palestinian Economy (Washington, DC: World Bank, April 2025).

36 Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, Annual Statistical Report on the Economic and Social Conditions in Palestine 2024 (Ramallah: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2024). (in Arabic).

37 Nadera Mushta, "Starvation by price: Palestinians face \$40 rice, \$100 sugar amid Israeli blockade," Prism Reports, 21 July 2025.

38 Ibid.

39 Ibid.

40 "World Central Kitchen says it has supplied 50 million meals in Gaza," Reuters, 2024.

to an almost complete paralysis of the banking system.⁴¹ The malfunction of ATMs and the interruption of electricity and internet services also prevented citizens from withdrawing cash, forcing them to resort to the black market, where cash withdrawal commissions from merchants rose to (52) percent.

The removal of certain denominations of currency, such as the 10-shekel coin and the 20-shekel banknote, further complicated the liquidity crisis and increased economic pressure on the population.⁴²

The agricultural and industrial sectors have also suffered severe damage; according to satellite analyses, (98.5) percent of agricultural land in Gaza is either damaged or inaccessible. This means that only (1.5) percent of agricultural land in Gaza (232 hectares) is currently arable, down from (4.6) percent (688 hectares) in April 2025,⁴³ exacerbating the food security crisis in the strip.

Regarding the industrial sector, UN reports indicate that by July 2025, nearly (88) percent of industrial and commercial facilities were destroyed or closed, including (22) major industrial zones, directly impacting local production capacity.⁴⁴ According to a joint report issued by the General Union of Palestinian Industries in cooperation with the Union of Palestinian Chambers of Commerce and Agricultural Industries and the United Nations Development Programme (UDNP), more than (90) percent of workers in industrial facilities were dismissed, with the number of workers dropping from (21,529) to (2,182). This sharp decline threatens the stability of the local labour market and hinders long term economic recovery efforts in the industrial sector.⁴⁵

Before the war, the industrial sector included (15) diverse sub-sectors, including food, construction, metal, aluminium, and plastics. However, two years of war have caused widespread destruction to infrastructure and industrial facilities, affecting not only factories but also energy networks, water systems, and vital service facilities related to production, leading to the erosion of production capacity and weakening short-term economic recovery prospects. In the long term, the sector faces structural challenges, including slow reconstruction, a weak investment environment, and a decline in growth fundamentals.⁴⁶

In an interview conducted on September 8, 2025, with Osama Al-Nu'san, Deputy Director of the General Union of Palestinian Industries, he indicated that prior to the war, the industrial sector contributed approximately 13–14 percent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). However, the impact of two years of warfare have brought production to a halt and led to soaring rates of unemployment and poverty. Nearly 90 percent of industrial facilities were completely or partially destroyed, resulting in the dismissal of around 60,000 workers who lost their sources of livelihood, thereby further exacerbating living conditions.

He added that, in the long term, the industrial sector faces serious challenges, including the slow pace of reconstruction, a weak investment environment, and the erosion of sustainable growth factors. These repercussions, he emphasised, necessitate international intervention focused on reconstruction, support for productive sectors, and strengthening the resilience of Palestinian society to ensure a genuine economic recovery.

41 "Gaza: Israeli Banks Destroyed 93% of Bank Branches." (in Arabic).

42 "Gaza in the Grip of a 'Shadow Economy': Cash Shortage Devastates Citizens amid a Silent Financial War." (in Arabic).

43 Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and United Nations Satellite Centre (UNOSAT), Gaza Strip: 98.5 Percent of Cropland Unavailable for Cultivation as Famine Looms, 9 August 2025.

44 UNRWA, UNRWA Situation Report #180 – Humanitarian Crisis in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem (18 July 2025), accessed via UNISPAL/UN site.

45 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Impact of the War on the Private Sector in Gaza, (October 2024).

46 Raed Hallas, researcher specializing in Palestinian economic affairs, audio interview, September 8, 2025.

The commercial sector was also heavily affected, with most shops and central markets closing, and domestic and foreign trade declining sharply due to import and export restrictions, in addition to the destruction of vital logistical infrastructure. Data from the Palestinian Chamber of Commerce indicate that approximately (65) percent of commercial companies in Gaza suffered partial or total damage, resulting in the loss of thousands of jobs in this vital sector and increasing unemployment and poverty rates. Several additional factors contributed to worsening the commercial crisis, including the closure of crossings, which disrupted the movement of goods and essential commodities, rising prices due to import restrictions, infrastructure destruction, the imposition of additional fees on truck entry, and cash shortages, negatively affecting trade activity and the stability of the commercial sector overall.⁴⁷

Table (2): Economic indicators in the Gaza Strip (2023–2025)⁴⁸

Time period	GDP percentage compared to pre-aggression level	Unemployment rate	Poverty rate
Second quarter 2023	70%	46%	61%
Second quarter 2024	45%	63%	76%
Second quarter 2025	25%>	78%	85%

1.4 The Health System

The Israeli targeting of the healthcare system is part of a systematic strategy aimed at dismantling the health infrastructure and undermining the population's ability to access basic medical care.⁴⁹ This strategy included the direct targeting of hospitals and medical facilities, the imposition of sieges and forced evacuations of hospitals, the arrest and killing of medical staff, the targeting of ambulances, and the obstruction of entry of medicines and medical equipment. This has resulted in a drastic decline in the ability to treat injuries caused by the Israeli attacks, the inability to control outbreaks of communicable diseases, and a collapse in care provision for patients with critical conditions such as cancer, kidney failure, and other chronic illnesses. Consequently, the number of medically avoidable civilian deaths has risen significantly, whilst the health system's ability to respond to humanitarian emergencies has virtually disintegrated.

Reports as of August 2025 show that around (27) hospitals and (57) health centres were completely destroyed or rendered out of service, whilst only a small fraction of facilities continues to operate partially, inhibited by fuel shortages and infrastructural damage.⁵⁰ The World Health Organization has estimated that nearly seventy percent of these facilities are no longer useable as a result of direct strikes and the breakdown of essential services. Moreover, more than (120) ambulances have been destroyed or disabled since October 2023.⁵¹

47 International Labour Organization, The Situation of Workers in the Occupied Arab Territories: Director-General's Report – 2024 (Beirut: International Labour Organization, January 2025). (in Arabic).

48 World Bank and International Labour Organization data (2023-2025).

49 World Health Organization, Health System at Breaking Point as Hostilities Further Intensify in Gaza, WHO Warns (Geneva: World Health Organization, 22 May 2025).

50 United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Occupied Palestinian Territory: Health Cluster Update – August 2025 (New York: OCHA, 2025).

51 Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), MSF's Response to the Israel–Gaza War.

In an interview conducted on September 11, 2025, Dr. Madeline Abu Asr, Head of the Emergency Department at Al-Ahli Arab (Baptist) Hospital, noted that the few hospitals still operating are forced to function far beyond their capacity amid frequent power outages, and severe shortages of fuel and water. These conditions, she explained, severely hinder the provision of both emergency and routine medical services.

Dr. Abu Asr added that such circumstances have led to a significant decline in the quality of healthcare, a rise in mortality rates, and the inability to treat chronic illnesses, in addition to the spread of diseases related to malnutrition and deteriorating environmental conditions in displacement areas. She emphasised that urgent priorities for addressing the current health situation include securing support for the rehabilitation of hospitals, facilitating the entry of essential medical equipment and medicines, and enabling medical personnel to perform their duties in a humane environment that preserves patients' dignity and ensures their right to access treatment.

In addition, Israeli authorities have detained dozens of doctors, nurses, technicians, and other staff who were detained whilst performing their duties. A joint investigation by The Guardian and Arab Reporters for Investigative Journalism documented that no fewer than 160 health workers from Gaza remain detained in Israeli prisons, including more than 20 senior physicians. Human rights reports further indicate that many of them were subjected to torture and ill-treatment.⁵² Among those arrested was Dr. Hossam Abu Safiya, Director of Kamal Adwan Hospital in Beit Lahia, who was detained on 27 December 2024 during a raid on the hospital, without any clear charges.⁵³ Similarly, Dr. Ahmad Mahna, Director of Al-Awda Hospital in Jabalia, was arrested on 16 December 2023 after refusing to evacuate the hospital and remains in detention to date.⁵⁴

The health sector is suffering from acute shortages of vital medicines needed for conditions such as hypertension, kidney failure, diabetes, and cancer, as well as essential medicines for emergency and surgical cases. Critical items include analgesics, anti-inflammatories, antibiotics, surgical supplies, and basic materials required for emergency procedures, and to essential laboratory reagents for monitoring critical cases.⁵⁵

According to reports by the World Health Organization and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), approximately (52) percent of essential medicines and (68) percent of medical consumables are completely out of stock,⁵⁶ whilst nearly (71,000) diabetic patients are suffering from insulin shortages. Thousands of wounded are at risk of long-term complications due to the lack of antibiotics and essential surgical supplies.⁵⁷

"Before the war, I was regularly following up with my doctor for heart failure treatment and taking my medication as prescribed. But after the bombardment, everything changed. The hospital near my home was destroyed, and I now have to walk long distances searching for a medical center or humanitarian organization that might have the medicine available. Essential drugs are no longer accessible, and when I do find them in pharmacies, they're too expensive for me to buy. To make my medication last as long as possible, I divide the pills into smaller doses, and sometimes I rely on herbal remedies from neighbors—but this hasn't stopped my health from steadily deteriorating."

Testimony of (A.K.), a patient suffering from heart failure, residing in Gaza City — Interview date: 07/09/2025.

52 The Guardian, and Arab Reporters for Investigative Journalism (ARIJ). "No rules': Gaza's doctors say they were tortured, detained, and humiliated in Israeli detention." The Guardian, 25 February 2025.

53 "Who Is Hussam Abu Safia, Director of Key Gaza Hospital Detained by Israel," Al Jazeera, December 29, 2024, Accessed on 28 August 2025.

54 Mohanna, Nagham. "Gaza doctors 'arrested for practising medicine' and held by Israel as health system collapses." The National, 1 May 2025.

55 Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Humanitarian Situation Update 315 | Gaza Strip. 21 August 2025.

56 World Health Organization. WHO Health Access Report, Gaza 2025. Geneva: World Health Organization, 2025.

57 Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Gaza Health Sector Update 2025. New York: United Nations, 2025.

Further, the spread of infectious diseases in Gaza has been exacerbated by the collapse of water and sanitation networks, as well as the dire shelter conditions in overcrowded, poorly ventilated tents lacking basic hygiene. These factors created a fertile environment for the transmission of epidemics. As a result, multiple outbreaks have been recorded, most notably acute diarrhoea, respiratory infections, chickenpox, and skin diseases. Added to these are rising cases of meningitis and jaundice linked to viral hepatitis, alongside the looming threat of polio resurgence. Mental health disorders have also increased sharply, including post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression, and anxiety.⁵⁸

Only (45) disability rehabilitation centres out of (112) remain operational, and even these function only partially. These include (10) hospitals, (2) field hospitals, (19) medical points, and (14) primary healthcare centres.

The ability to conduct laboratory testing has also been severely undermined. According to the Ministry of Health, around (49) percent of laboratory reagents are completely depleted. Essential diagnostic tests in surgical departments and intensive care units—such as drug-level monitoring for kidney and liver transplant patients—are on the verge of running out. Similarly, critical blood safety screening tests (CBC, HBsAg, HCV, HIV) are almost depleted,⁵⁹ increasing the risk of unsafe blood transfusions. Furthermore, about (45) percent of laboratory equipment has been damaged or destroyed, creating an urgent need for maintenance and spare parts.⁶⁰

Table (3): Scale of Damage to the Health Sector up to August 2025

Health Facility	Number	Type of Damage
Public and field hospitals	27	Completely destroyed or out of service
Health centres and clinics	57	Partial or total shutdown
Ambulances / emergency units	More than 120	Disabled or completely destroyed

Table (4): Hospitals Operating in the Northern and Southern Governorates of the Gaza Strip as of August 2025

Governorate	No of Operating Hospitals	Notes
North Gaza	8 Hospitals: Al-Shifa Hospital , Al-Sahaba Hospital, Patient Friends Benevolent Society, Public Service Hospital, Al-Ahli Arab Hospital, Al-Wafaa Rehabilitation Hospital, Al-Helou Hospital, and the Palestinian Red Crescent Field Hospital.	Operating only partially due to shortages of fuel and medical supplies
South Gaza	6 Hospitals: Al-Nasser Hospital, Al-Awda Hospital, Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital, Al-Amal Hospital, Kuwait Specialized Hospital, and the field hospitals in the Al-Mawasi area.	Includes field hospitals managed by international organizations, facing challenges in registration and compliance with Israeli directives.

58 UNICEF, “More than 320,000 children under five in Gaza are at risk of acute malnutrition, with thousands suffering from the deadliest form of malnutrition,” UNICEF, 29 July 2025.

59 Palestinian Ministry of Health – Gaza, Health Report on Damage to Medical Facilities and Health Personnel in the Gaza Strip 2025, (Gaza: Ministry of Health, 2025). (in Arabic).

60 World Health Organization (WHO), Situation Report: Gaza Health Crisis, July 2025.

1.5 The Education System

UN reports show that around (658,000) children have now been deprived of schooling for two consecutive years. Among them are (56,000) six-year-olds who were supposed to begin their first school year. In all, only (38) percent of children were able to access some form of available education.⁶¹

These figures align with UNRWA data, which documents that (290,000) children managed to access online educational resources in Arabic, English, mathematics, and science between April and July 2025.⁶²

During the ceasefire between January and March 2025, the number of children benefiting from available education—whether in person or online—increased, reaching (50,000) students from grades one through nine by 18 March, the day the ceasefire was broken.⁶³ However, with the resumption of hostilities and the spread of evacuation orders, (166) learning spaces were shut down, and (239) were destroyed or closed due to security concerns and lack of funding. At present, (295) learning spaces remain functional, including (200) in Khan Younis and Deir al-Balah, and (95) in Gaza City and North Gaza.⁶⁴

Reports estimate that between (90) and (95.2) percent of schools have been either completely or partially damaged. Of these, (88) percent require full reconstruction to become usable again.⁶⁵ By October 2024, education facilities had been subjected to (262) attacks, (167) of which were direct bombardments. Others involved evacuation orders, sieges, or the arrest of displaced people sheltering inside.⁶⁶ Nearly one million displaced people sought refuge in UN facilities, including schools, using them as shelters.⁶⁷

As for higher education in Gaza, it has been severely affected by Israel's policy of systematic destruction. The studies of approximately (90,000) university students were suspended as a result of the complete or partial bombardment of all universities.⁶⁸ In addition, (71,000) students were left unable to secure their university education after completing school, whilst (39,000) students were prevented from finishing their high school examinations.⁶⁹

Schools and universities in the Strip attempted to cope with these extraordinary circumstances by turning to virtual education, despite the serious difficulties of securing reliable internet connections. In the case of universities, a press report noted that an emergency committee—comprising the main universities in Gaza (Al-Azhar University, the Islamic University, and Al-Aqsa University)—sought to implement measures that would ensure the continuation of education under such conditions.⁷⁰

61 (OCHA oPt), Humanitarian Situation Update #319 | Gaza Strip.

62 UNRWA, UNRWA Situation Report #186 on the Humanitarian Crisis in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.

63 United Nations News, “‘Education Is Not Negotiable’: UNRWA Provides Educational Opportunities for Tens of Thousands of Students in Gaza,” United Nations News, March 2025, Accessed September 1, 2025. (in Arabic).

64 (OCHA oPt), Humanitarian Situation Update #319 | Gaza Strip.

65 Save the Children International. Education under attack in Gaza, with nearly 90 % of school buildings damaged or destroyed. 16 April 2024.

66 Inter-Agency Education Needs Assessment, Education Overview 2024: State of Education in Gaza and the West Bank – Current Realities and Future Priorities, ReliefWeb, February 2025.

67 Independent International Commission of Inquiry, Report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territories, including East Jerusalem, and Israel (A/HRC/59/26, May 6, 2025). (in Arabic).

68 Henry A. Giroux, “Scholasticide: Waging War on Education from Gaza to the West,” *Journal of Holy Land and Palestine Studies* 24, no. 1 (April 2025): 1–16.

69 Inter-Agency Education Needs Assessment, Education Overview 2024: State of Education in Gaza and the West Bank – Current Realities and Future Priorities.

70 Isabella Michie, and Ali Benton, “All universities in Gaza have been destroyed. What does this mean for Palestinians?” ABC News, 7 June 2025.

In a statement given on September 11, 2025, Mr. Abdelwahab Abu Al-Atta, Director of Al-Amal Center for Training and Languages, explained that the collapse of the educational process has created a deep intellectual and psychological void among students, leading to severe mental health impacts, including symptoms of anxiety and depression. The lack of electricity and internet connectivity has rendered the surrounding environment unsupportive of learning, while many schools have been converted into overcrowded shelters for displaced persons, amidst a severe shortage of textbooks and learning materials.

Abu Al-Atta further noted that teachers face compounded challenges, as they endure the same conditions of displacement, loss, and trauma, whilst being simultaneously expected to perform educational, psychological, and humanitarian roles. He concluded that addressing this crisis requires, first and foremost, a complete and immediate ceasefire, followed by the urgent reconstruction of educational institutions, the establishment of a comprehensive national psychosocial support program, and the lifting of the blockade to ensure access to essential resources. In addition, he emphasized the need for systematic and sustainable support for educational personnel, as they constitute the foundation of future recovery efforts.

Data from the Institute for Palestine Studies indicates that (1,661) educational institutions were destroyed between the start of the war and February 2025. This includes (927) schools, universities, and educational centres completely demolished, and (734) institutions partially destroyed. Direct Israeli attacks also resulted in the killing of (17,085) students, (739) school-level teachers and staff, and (1,421) university faculty members.⁷¹

Figure (3): Damage to the Education Sector in the Gaza Strip



The destruction extends beyond physical violence to target the identity of Palestinian society. This intent is further compounded by a bureaucratic form of erasure, through the annihilation of educational documents belonging to academics and students, effectively preventing them from continuing their studies.⁷² Reports by international human rights organisations and Israeli media confirm that the Israeli army established a specialised unit tasked with the systematic destruction of schools, under the justification that they serve as “centres of gravity” where combatants allegedly hide among civilians.⁷³ These policies are a form of slow structural violence and, when viewed within the broader lens of ongoing events, can be understood as a feature of genocide.

⁷¹ Institute for Palestine studies, Documenting the Targeting and Destruction of Education in the Gaza Strip, Accessed September 5, 2025. (in Arabic).

⁷² Sajoud Awais, “Extermination of Deeds and Transactions: Graduates without Certificates... Births without IDs... Lands without Owners,” (Policy Papers), Institute for Palestine studies, 2025. (in Arabic).

⁷³ Human Rights Watch, Gaza: Israeli School Strikes Magnify Civilian Peril, 7 August 2025.

1.6 Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Before October 2023, the water sector in Gaza was already extremely fragile. A large proportion of groundwater was unfit for human consumption due to salinity and nitrate contamination. According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, nearly (97) percent of the water extracted from the coastal aquifer was unsuitable for human consumption because of contamination from untreated wastewater, rendering it inconsistent with World Health Organization's standards.⁷⁴

Before the war, population in Gaza rely on desalination plants. Three plants produced around (21) million litres of drinking water per day, covering approximately (7) percent of Gaza's clean water needs. In addition, three main plants operated by the Palestinian Water Authority and UNICEF in Deir al-Balah and Khan Younis supplemented supply, alongside three pipelines from Israeli companies (Mekorot), which provided about (13) percent of Gaza's waterneeds.⁷⁵

During the war, the water sector in Gaza deteriorated catastrophically. Wastewater treatment plants sustained severe damage and nearly all ceased operations by mid-2025. As a result, more than (130,000) cubic meters of untreated sewage were discharged daily into the sea and soil, causing large-scale contamination of coastal groundwater sources and increased outbreaks of waterborne diseases, particularly amongst children in overcrowded displacement shelters. Most desalination plants also went out of service, depriving tens of thousands of families of their primary source of drinking water and forcing them to rely on UNRWA-supported tankers and humanitarian agencies.⁷⁶

"Displaced populations in shelters, camps, and collective centres face severe risks from overcrowding, the difficulty of maintaining personal hygiene."

Local institutions and civil society initiatives attempted emergency responses by digging between (70) and (100) wells over the course of the two years of war, to provide limited amounts of water for neighbourhoods, health centres, and displacement camps. They also purchased potable water and distributed it via tankers. However, these ad-hoc solutions carried risks of deteriorating water quality, rising salinity, and nitrate contamination, increasing the likelihood of outbreaks such as cholera and typhoid.⁷⁷

According to the latest data from the Coastal Municipalities Water Utility (CMWU) and the World Health Organization, the per capita availability of water in Gaza has dropped to less than (20) litres per day. Approximately (70) percent of water and sewage networks have been damaged, and almost all wastewater treatment plants have ceased functioning.⁷⁸

Despite limited humanitarian interventions—including mobile treatment units and generators to partially power plants—response efforts have fallen far short of addressing the magnitude of infrastructure collapse.⁷⁹ Over two years of war, Gaza's water sector has shifted from fragile vulnerability to near-total collapse, leaving residents dependent on makeshift solutions such as groundwater wells, small desalination stations, and water tanker deliveries.⁸⁰

⁷⁴ Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS). Annual Statistical Report on Economic and Social Conditions in Palestine 2025. Ramallah: PCBS, 2025.

⁷⁵ Al Jazeera, "Report: Gaza's Water Share Declined by 97%," March 21, 2024, Accessed August 25, 2025. (in Arabic).

⁷⁶ Coastal Municipalities Water Utility, On Water Situation in the Gaza Strip, Al Mezan Center for Human Rights, 9 August 2025.

⁷⁷ Ibid.

⁷⁸ Ibid.

⁷⁹ "Water Authority: 85% of Water and Sanitation Facilities Destroyed in the Gaza Strip," (in Arabic).

⁸⁰ Anadolu Agency, "Gaza: Israel Causes Main Water Line to Stop, Warnings of a Thirst Crisis," April 5, 2025. Accessed September 9, 2025. (in Arabic).

The sanitation system, a cornerstone of the sector due to its direct impact on public health, environmental safety, and social stability, has also been devastated. Wastewater treatment plants have been damaged, sewerage networks destroyed, and sewage collection and treatment systems collapsed. Untreated sewage has leaked into streets, displacement camps, shelters, and residential areas, directly contributing to the spread of sanitation-related diseases and aggravating humanitarian, environmental, and public health crises.⁸¹

"Since the war began, sewage has been flooding the streets around us, between the destroyed houses and the tents we live in. The smell is unbearable, and insects are everywhere, especially mosquitoes. Our children are the most affected, and we are constantly worried about diarrhea and skin infections. We have to watch them all the time.

We have been trying to find simple solutions on our own, placing wooden platforms inside the tents to keep ourselves above the sewage, and some local initiatives provided temporary toilets. But none of this changes the reality that our health is deteriorating, and our lives have become a daily struggle."

Testimony of (M.S.), a resident of Sheikh Radwan neighborhood in Gaza City — Interview date: 07/09/2025. Interview date: 07/09/2025.

Similarly, an Oxfam report issued in February 2025 revealed that approximately (655,000) linear meters of sewage networks were damaged—around (88) percent of the total. Six main wastewater treatment plants stopped functioning, and (73) out of (84) pumping stations were destroyed, representing about (87) percent of the system. This near-total collapse disrupted the treatment and transfer of wastewater, leading to increased leakage into streets and residential neighbourhoods.

Before the war, Gaza had around (100) suction trucks dedicated to sewage collection, which played a vital role in keeping sewerage systems functioning and preventing wastewater accumulation. However, direct bombardments destroyed about (70) percent of these trucks—nearly (70) vehicles—resulting in a sharp drop in operational capacity. At present, only about (15) percent of the surviving trucks operate partially, facing major challenges due to fuel and spare parts shortages, whilst another (15) percent remain fully operational. However, this limited capacity is far from sufficient to meet the sanitation needs of the Strip.⁸²

Reports issued by the World Health Organization indicate a dramatic surge in infectious diseases, with more than (40,000) cases of cholera reported during the first ten months of the war, alongside (800) to (1,000) new cases recorded weekly.⁸³ Cases of Hepatitis A have also risen (25) times compared to pre-war levels, according to a report by the United Nations Environment Programme.⁸⁴

Displaced populations in shelters, camps, and collective centres face severe risks from overcrowding, the difficulty of maintaining personal hygiene, and the inability to wash clothes and bedding.⁸⁵ These challenges are compounded by the lack of sanitation facilities,⁸⁶ and the limited availability of water for bathing and cleaning utensils.⁸⁷ Humanitarian organisations have responded by setting up temporary sanitation facilities and mobile toilets, distributing clean water, and conducting awareness campaigns on handwashing and environmental hygiene, in addition to coordinating efforts for waste collection and water management.⁸⁸

81 Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) and Environment Quality Authority, World Environment Day Press Release: Gaza in WED—Stifling Environmental and Humanitarian Crisis, Ramallah: PCBS, 2025.

82 Oxfam International, "Impact of the War on Water and Sanitation Infrastructure in the Gaza Strip," 2025, Accessed 27 August 2025.

83 Cavit Işık Yavuz and Sevilcan Başak Ünal, "War and Environmental Health in Gaza," Eastern Mediterranean Health Journal 31, no. 2 (2025): 151–153.

84 World Health Organization (WHO), Situation Report: Gaza Health Crisis.

85 United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA oPt), Humanitarian Situation Update No. 315 | Gaza Strip (21 August 2025).

86 World Health Organization (WHO), "Health System at Breaking Point as Hostilities Further Intensify in Gaza," 22 May 2025

87 Ibid.

88 United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), Annual Report 2023. Amman, Jordan: UNRWA, 26 May 2023.

In an interview conducted on 10 September 2025 with Dr. Ahmed Helles, Head of the National Institute for Environment and Development, he discussed the nature of the environmental catastrophe currently unfolding in the Gaza Strip. He explained that the extensive bombardment and destruction of infrastructure have resulted in more than (70) million tons of debris, according to preliminary surveys and satellite imagery, in addition to large quantities of unexploded ordnance that require specialized mechanisms for safe management. Dr. Helles further noted that the prohibited use of certain weapons, such as white phosphorus and heavy metals—including cobalt and nickel, which are components of explosive devices—has led to the contamination of air, water, and soil, directly impacting the health of the population through the spread of various diseases.

Helles pointed out that the agricultural soil in the Gaza Strip has been severely contaminated, leading to a decline in food security and a worsening of living conditions. He added that the seizure of vast agricultural lands by Israeli forces has rendered large areas unusable, leaving only about 10 percent of pre-war agricultural land still cultivable.

He explained that the few remaining arable areas have become home to thousands of displaced people living in tents lacking basic sanitation services, which further contributes to the contamination of soil and water sources. These areas are also continuously exposed to toxins and dust generated by ongoing bombardment, exacerbating the deterioration of the agricultural environment and posing a direct threat to the sustainability of food security in the Strip. Helles added that the deepening food insecurity and the reduced capacity of local communities to rely on their own agricultural resources are directly linked to the loss of farmland in Gaza's eastern, northern, and southern regions, which previously constituted the main food basket of the population.

Table (5): Damage to the Sanitation Sector

Item	Pre-war Statistics	Post-war Statistics	Percentage of Damage
Length of sewage networks (meters)	743,000	88% damaged	88%
Number of sewage pumping stations	84	73 destroyed	87%
Number of main water pumping stations	0	5 destroyed	100%
Sewage suction trucks	100	70 destroyed	70%
Wastewater production (m ³ /day)	130,000	84,000 untreated discharges	65%

1.7 Psychological and Social Impacts

Studies conducted during the two years of war indicated high rates of anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder among the population in the Gaza Strip, particularly among the displaced. Symptoms of depression were accompanied by an inability to sleep, loss of appetite, and difficulty carrying out cognitive tasks,⁸⁹ whilst anxiety was associated with overwhelming fear and incapacity to perform daily tasks.⁹⁰ Reported rates of depression and anxiety in the studies ranged between (80) percent and (85) percent, respectively.⁹¹ Other studies recorded even higher levels of depression, reaching (93.8) percent of study participants.⁹²

The real risks of psychological disorders lie in their long-term impact on individuals' personalities and social lives. These disorders are further exacerbated by the extremely harsh economic conditions faced by most of the population, the continuation of forced displacement under evacuation orders, and the loss of homes due to ongoing bombardment. Research showed a direct correlation between increased anxiety levels and individuals who had lost their homes.⁹³

The repercussions of the humanitarian crisis extend to the mental health of individuals and the wider community. Reports indicate that approximately (70) percent of the population are experiencing high levels of anxiety and depression, whilst studies show that (45) percent of children suffer from post-traumatic stress symptoms and other behavioural disorders. Additionally, about (55) percent of children exhibit aggressive behaviours, social withdrawal, and difficulties in concentration, alongside delays in cognitive and emotional development.⁹⁴

Marginalised groups in society are particularly affected psychologically. Children—due to continuous exposure to traumatic events, separation from their families, the absence of safe spaces for recovery, and deprivation of their basic needs—face circumstances that make future recovery extremely difficult.⁹⁵ At the same time, women are exposed to similar risks arising from the lack of services and the rise in gender-based violence. As of January 2024, daily birth rates reached (183) births per day, with caesarean sections being performed without anaesthesia, and women forced to leave hospitals within only three hours due to the absence of medical care. In addition, women suffer from malnutrition and lack of access to basic hygiene supplies. Pregnant women in particular suffer from conditions such as anaemia, which increases the risk of miscarriage and congenital malformations in fetuses.⁹⁶

The crisis is further aggravated by the limited access to mental health services, resulting from the collapse of infrastructure and severe economic constraints. The sector also suffers from a shortage of qualified professionals to address widespread psychological needs, and from the absence of clear methodologies for providing primary mental health care in conditions of continuous aggression. Although studies emphasise the importance of

89 B Aldabbour, M El-Jamal, A Abuabada, et al., "The Psychological Toll of War and Forced Displacement in Gaza: A Study on Anxiety, PTSD, and Depression," *Chronic Stress* 9 (2025).

90 Ibid.

91 Ibid.

92 Mohammed Qutishat, "Mental Health in Gaza: Addressing Sustainability Challenges of Ongoing War Conflict," *Middle East Current Psychiatry* 32, Article 27 (2025).

93 Basel El-Khodary, and Sanaa Aboudagga, "The Impact of Gaza War: Online Educational Challenges and Mental Health of University Students," *Middle East Current Psychiatry* 32, Article 48 (2025).

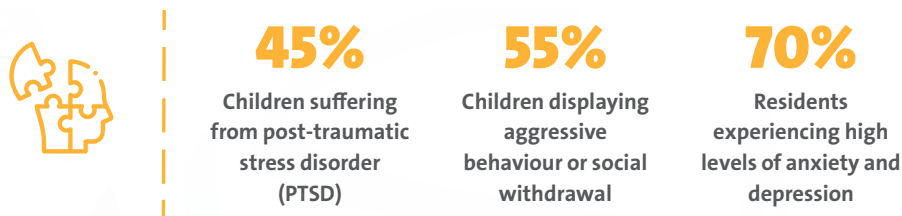
94 United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), *Impact of Malnutrition on Behavioral Development of Children in Gaza* (New York: UNICEF, 2025).

95 UNRWA. *Protection in the Gaza Strip*. N.D. Retrieved 7 September 2025.

96 Shatha Elnakib, Mollie Fair, Elke Mayrhofer, Mohamed Afifi, and Zeina Jamaluddine, "Pregnant Women in Gaza Require Urgent Protection," *The Lancet* 403, no. 10423 (20 January 2024): 244.

immediate psychological interventions—such as rapid counselling and strengthening social support networks—in mitigating long-term disorders, such interventions remain inaccessible to large segments of Gaza's population.⁹⁷

Figure (4): Prevalence Rates of Psychological Disorders among the Population



1.8 Collapse of protection systems

Analysis of the Israeli occupation forces' methods during two years of war reveals violations of the principles of proportionality and precaution stipulated in the four Geneva Conventions and their protocols and Article 8 of the Rome Statute. This is, inter alia, due to their neglect of civilian protection and doubts regarding the effectiveness of evacuation notices issued over short periods without adequately facilitating said evacuations.⁹⁸ The failure of international legal protection mechanisms was accompanied by the failure of political conceptual frameworks that usually applied in similar cases, such as the Responsibility to Protect, as states that had previously intervened militarily to protect civilians in conflicts in Libya and Kosovo did not intervene to stop the Israeli aggression on Gaza Strip.⁹⁹

During two years of aggression, Israeli attacks killed (68,122) residents of the Gaza Strip, whilst the fate of more than (11,200) missing persons, including (4,700) women and children, remains unknown. The death toll includes (18,592) children, (12,400) women, and (4,412) elderly people, in addition to (1,411) health sector staff, (246) journalists, (203) UNRWA staff, and (223) civil defence personnel, according to PCBS.¹⁰⁰ Although the Palestinian Ministry of Health records the number of bodies it receives from Israeli attacks, these numbers are likely higher in reality, due to the difficulty of counting amidst ongoing direct targeting of government personnel.

The protection systems recognised in Palestinian society in Gaza before the war collapsed, and UNRWA estimates that this current genocidal war will have devastating and long-term effects on the most vulnerable groups, including women, children, and persons with special needs—particularly displaced persons, as displacement centres lack privacy and hygiene due to severe overcrowding, with centres accommodating more than four

⁹⁷ Qutishat, "Mental Health in Gaza: Addressing Sustainability Challenges of Ongoing War Conflict."

⁹⁸ Saqiba Saleem, Nouman Akbar, "International Humanitarian Law and the Conflict in Gaza: A Legal Appraisal of Proportionality and Civilian Protection," *Journal of Law and Social Policy Review* 2, no. 1 (2025): 51-54.

⁹⁹ Jeremy Moses, "Gaza and the Political and Moral Failure of the Responsibility to Protect," *Journal of Intervention and Statebuilding* 18, no. 2 (2024): 211–215.

¹⁰⁰ Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, Martyrs (PCBS webpage), State of Palestine, Accessed on 06 October 2025.

times their actual capacity.¹⁰¹ These conditions arise in an exhausted environment after two years of war, with unexploded rockets, bombs, and mines remaining in various areas of Gaza Strip.¹⁰²

Israeli forces intentionally target shelters and schools used by Palestinian civilians through unlawful indiscriminate raids, violating the “Safe Schools Declaration,” an international political commitment signed by 121 countries to protect students, staff, and educational facilities during wars and conflicts, which Israel has not signed.¹⁰³

According to a Human Rights Watch investigation of two incidents in which Israeli forces targeted schools in Deir al-Balah and the Zeitoun neighbourhood of Gaza, resulting in the deaths of (15) and (34) displaced persons respectively, the schools did not contain any military targets, contrary to Israeli claims.¹⁰⁴

The report also indicated that Israeli forces employed a “double strike” policy, bombing the same area twice consecutively to ensure the elimination of survivors from the first strike, as well as targeting rescue workers responding to the attack.¹⁰⁵ The attack on Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis on August 25 was similarly a double strike, with the hospital building bombed twice consecutively, resulting in the deaths of five journalists, and relief workers who arrived after the first bombing.¹⁰⁶

Before the war, my husband, our five children, and I lived in our home in the Salateen area of Beit Lahia. Due to the bombardment, we were forced to flee to relatives' house in Jabalia Camp, where about twenty people shared the same house, and we suffered from overcrowding and lack of privacy. After Jabalia Camp was destroyed, we were displaced a second time to Al-Mawasi in Khan Younis, southern Gaza Strip. Today, we live in a tent among hundreds of other tents, with no privacy or basic living conditions, constantly fearing random airstrikes. Our anxiety and despair are heightened by the absence of security, and our children are continuously exposed to physical and psychological risks. We try to protect them as much as possible and support each other psychologically.”

Testimony of (L.K.), a displaced woman from the Salateen area in Beit Lahia and mother of five — Interview date: 05/09/2025.

Israeli occupation forces further destroyed protection systems by targeting civilians seeking humanitarian aid. Reports highlight the death of (2,146) aid recipients, most of them youth and adolescents, since the establishment of the Israeli military-controlled humanitarian distribution system between May 27th to September 2nd, 2025.¹⁰⁷ These attacks coincide with the destruction of the health system, which is protected under International Humanitarian Law. Though this did little to protect (2.5) percent of health sector workers from falling victim to Israeli attacks,¹⁰⁸ demonstrating how Gaza is unsafe for all.

101 UNRWA. Protection in the Gaza Strip. N.D. Retrieved 7 September 2025.

102 Ibid.

103 Human Rights Watch, Gaza: Israeli School Strikes Magnify Civilian Peril.

104 Ibid.

105 Ibid.

106 BBC Arabic, “Widespread Condemnation of the Killing of Five Journalists in a Strike Targeting Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis, and Netanyahu Says It Is a ‘Tragic Accident,’” August 25, 2025, Accessed September 7, 2025. (in Arabic).

107 Affairs (OCHA oPt), Humanitarian Situation Update #319 | Gaza Strip.

108 Mohammed Yunus Khanji, Larissa Fast, Amira Nimerawi, et al., “Safeguarding Healthcare Workers in Gaza and throughout Occupied Palestine,” *BMJ Global Health* 10, no. 2 (February 2025).

On September 8, 2025, Fouad Abdel Aal, legal consultant and arbitrator at the Palestinian Bar Association, noted that over 90 percent of court buildings, prosecution offices, and police stations were destroyed, while the remaining facilities are unusable. This collapse has disrupted the work of judges and staff, halted proceedings in legal cases and disputes, and resulted in the violation of women's and children's rights related to alimony and other civil and legal entitlements.

He added that, in the long term, citizens are experiencing a legal vacuum and lack of security and protection systems, with the future threatened by the absence of justice, loss of social and economic stability, and increased vulnerability among disadvantaged groups, which further hinders social and legal recovery. He emphasised that under these circumstances, there is an urgent need for immediate international intervention to rebuild justice facilities, ensure that citizens—especially women and children—can access their fundamental rights, and focus on rehabilitating judicial personnel to restore the capacity to provide effective and sustainable legal services.



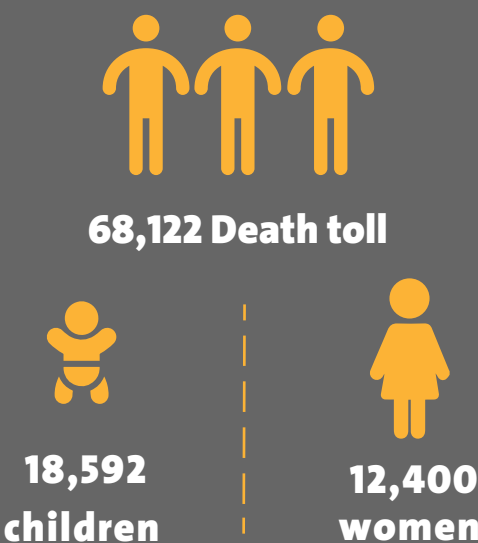
An explosion occurred in a building as a result of an Israeli airstrike on Gaza Strip. Photo credit: Unsplash, Mohammed Ibrahim, February 2025.

Facts and figures

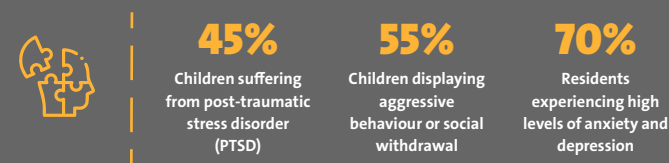
Percentages of Area Covered by Israeli Evacuation Orders



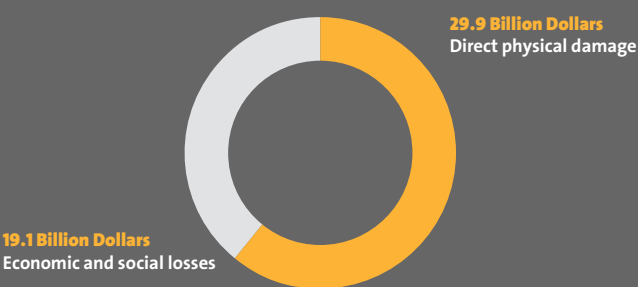
Number of Israeli aggression victims in Gaza as of September 2025



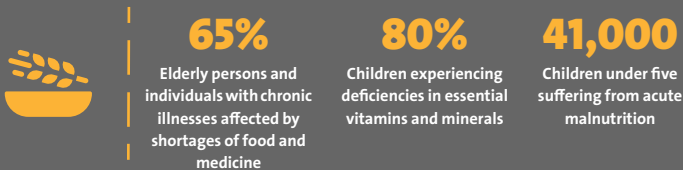
Prevalence Rates of Psychological Disorders among the Population



Estimates of Economic, Physical, and Social Losses of Israeli Aggression After Two Years



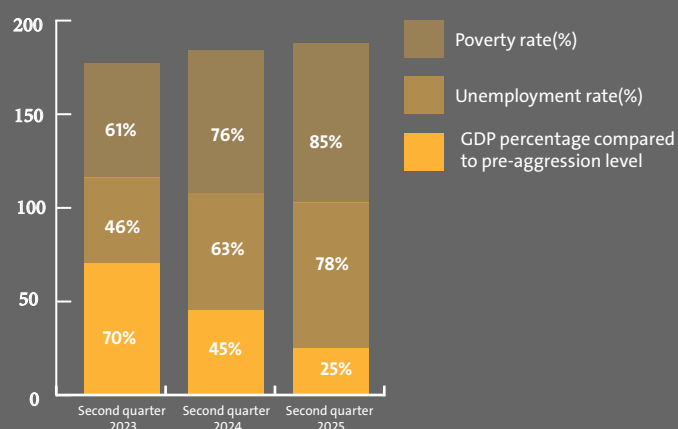
Indicators of Food Insecurity among Children and the Elderly



Comparison of the number of humanitarian aid worker victims



Economic indicators in the Gaza Strip (2023–2025)



Food prices have increased by **3,000%**, while cash withdrawal fees have concurrently risen by **52%**



Approximately **90%** of the water sector infrastructure sustained damage, including **238** primary wells.



Potable water production has declined to **58%** of its pre-war level, affecting approximately **90%** of the population.



Approximately **90%** of schools and universities have been damaged or forced to close, including **927** schools that were completely destroyed and **734** that sustained partial damage



Targets included **180** kitchens, **200** food aid distribution points, and **25** bakeries



In northern Gaza, **8 hospitals** are only partially operational due to critical shortages of fuel and medical supplies. Additionally, **6 field hospitals** operated by international organizations in Gaza face significant challenges related to registration and compliance with Israeli directives

Part Two

Genocide and the Starvation Strategy in the Gaza Strip

2.1 Acute Levels of Hunger in the Gaza Strip

Since 7 October 2023, the Gaza Strip has been subjected to an Israeli assault characterised by genocidal violence and the systematic use of starvation as a weapon. This has not only involved mass killings and the organised destruction of infrastructure, but also the deliberate adoption of starvation as a strategic tool aimed at undermining human existence itself. Civilians have been intentionally deprived of food, water, and medicine, whilst humanitarian assistance has been obstructed.

United Nations reports, along with an IPC (Integrated Food Security Phase Classification) assessment issued in May 2025, indicated that nearly half a million Palestinians in Gaza were facing catastrophic hunger at Phase 5—the highest level of food insecurity. This represents a life-threatening condition requiring urgent intervention,¹⁰⁹ with projections suggesting the number would rise to around (640,000) people by the end of September 2025. In practice, the entire population of Gaza is experiencing severe food insecurity to varying degrees.¹¹⁰

The Israeli occupation authorities turned so-called “aid distribution centers” into literal death traps, opening fire on starving civilians trying to retrieve aid, whilst simultaneously preventing any genuine measures to address the hunger crisis.¹¹¹ These attacks, carried out against unarmed civilian crowds who posed no threat to soldiers or aid workers, represent the manipulation and weaponisation of humanitarian assistance as a tool of war under the guise of relief.

According to a report by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, nearly (41,000) children under the age of five in Gaza were suffering from acute malnutrition as of July 2025, the highest monthly figure recorded to date, according to the Nutrition Cluster.¹¹²

In January 2024, the International Court of Justice recognised the existence of a “plausible risk of genocide” against Palestinians in Gaza,¹¹³ suggesting that the starvation of civilians is not an incidental outcome of war but a key element of the Israeli military strategy. The Palestinian Centre for Human Rights has also documented, through its daily field reports, Israel’s organised use of starvation against civilians by targeting bakeries, blocking the entry of food, and opening fire on people seeking aid.¹¹⁴

Figure (5): Indicators of Food Insecurity among Children and the Elderly



¹⁰⁹ Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), Gaza Strip: Acute Food Insecurity Situation for 1 April – 10 May 2025, (Rome: IPC, 10 May 2025).

¹¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹¹ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs – Occupied Palestinian Territory (OCHA-OPT), Reported Impact Snapshot | Gaza Strip (30 July 2025), 30 July 2025.

¹¹² United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Humanitarian Update No. 311: Gaza Strip. August 6, 2025. (in Arabic).

¹¹³ International Court of Justice (ICJ), Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in the Gaza Strip (South Africa v. Israel): Order of 26 January 2024, (The Hague: ICJ, 2024).

¹¹⁴ Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), Gaza Strip: Acute Food Insecurity Situation for 1 April – 10 May 2025.

UN reports estimate that more than half a million people are enduring famine in Gaza, with projections of approximately (640,000) affected by the end of September 2025. This situation is classified as Phase 5 of the IPC system, denoting a catastrophic level of hunger that threatens the survival of the population and demands urgent international intervention.¹¹⁵

The famine has fuelled the spread of acute malnutrition, particularly among children under five, as well as pregnant and breastfeeding women, heightening the risks of premature death and threatening the health of future generations.¹¹⁶

Among the most severe health impacts is the widespread deficiency of essential vitamins and minerals: nearly (80) percent of children under five suffer acute deficiencies in vital nutrients such as vitamin A, iron, and zinc.

This has led to weakened immune systems, higher rates of infectious diseases, and delays in physical and cognitive development.¹¹⁷ Chronic illnesses among the elderly have also worsened, with more than (65) percent of older people and those with chronic diseases experiencing deteriorating health due to the lack of food and medicine, resulting in increased mortality and overwhelming pressure on an already collapsing health system.¹¹⁸

“After our house was bombed in late 2024, we began living in a small tent in Nuseirat Camp, southern Gaza, and our suffering from hunger and fear intensified. Flour is almost unavailable, and when it is found, it is too expensive for me to buy since I lost my job. The most difficult moment I faced was when my 13-year-old son suffered from severe malnutrition, and I was unable to provide him with the necessary food. Even aid has become risky—I fear sending my children to distribution points, worried they might not return alive.”

Testimony of (F.J.), displaced from Shuja'iyya neighborhood to Nuseirat Camp — Interview date: 08/09/2025.

The United Nations and human rights organisations have condemned the continued obstruction of humanitarian aid, describing it as a flagrant violation of International Humanitarian Law—particularly Article 54 of Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions, which prohibits the use of starvation as a method of warfare, Article 70 which ensures the rapid and unimpeded passage of all relief supplies and personnel, and Article 59 of the Fourth Geneva Convention which requires states to allow the free passage of essential relief consignments for civilians.¹¹⁹ International organisations such as Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International have called for the immediate opening of humanitarian corridors and for unhindered delivery of aid, warning that the continuation of Israeli policies may constitute a potential crime against humanity.¹²⁰

¹¹⁵ Ibid.

¹¹⁶ World Health Organization (WHO), “Health System at Breaking Point as Hostilities Further Intensify in Gaza,” 22 May 2025.

¹¹⁷ UNICEF, “More than 320,000 children under five in Gaza are at risk of acute malnutrition, with thousands suffering from the deadliest form of malnutrition.”

¹¹⁸ World Health Organization (WHO). Situation Report: Gaza Health Crisis.

¹¹⁹ International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and Relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I), Geneva, 8 June 1977.

¹²⁰ UNRWA, UNRWA Situation Report #186 on the Humanitarian Crisis in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.

Table (6): Number of Humanitarian Trucks Entering the Gaza Strip since October 2023¹²¹

Month	Number of Trucks Entering Gaza since October 2023
October 2023	218
November 2023	2545
December 2023	3248
January 2024	4371
February 2024	2874
March 2024	4993
April 2024	5671
May 2024 (before Rafah closure)	1327
May 2024 (after Rafah closure)	3015
June 2024	3881
July 2024	4681
August 2024	3096
September 2024	3003
October 2024	1160
November 2024	109
December 2024	0 (no aid trucks recorded)
January 2025	15,000
February 2025	10,000
March 2025	0 (no aid trucks recorded)
April 2025	0 (no aid trucks recorded)
May 2025	Approximately 90
June 2025	870
July 2025	870
August 2025	1210

¹²¹ Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Gaza Humanitarian Response Update, 3–16 August 2025. OCHA, 2025.

2.2 The Economy of Genocide

Since the beginning of the aggression, United Nations reports, and human rights organisations have documented a series of grave violations of International Humanitarian Law by Israeli forces, and the report issued in June 2025 by UN Special Rapporteur Francesca Albanese provided a comprehensive examination of these practices.¹²² The report affirms that the pattern of military attacks was characterised by widespread and indiscriminate bombardment of populated areas, resulting in tens of thousands of civilian casualties and the destruction of essential facilities such as hospitals and schools. It concluded that this conduct represents a systematic violation of the principles of distinction and proportionality and constitutes a failure to uphold the obligation to protect civilians during armed conflict.¹²³

Albanese's report further emphasised that the Israeli blockade on the Gaza Strip has used starvation as a weapon of war by depriving the civilian population access to food, medicine, and fuel. The report classifies this policy as a potential war crime under Article 54 of Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions.¹²⁴

The report also highlights how Israel's large-scale evacuation policies and the declaration of "military zones" resulted in the forced displacement of millions of Palestinians within the Strip. According to Albanese, these measures fall within the scope of the crime of deportation or forcible transfer, as defined under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.¹²⁵

The International Association of Genocide Scholars (IAGS) reinforced this characterisation, voting in September 2025—with more than (86) percent of its members in agreement—on a resolution affirming that Israel's actions meet the legal criteria for genocide as defined by the 1948 UN Genocide Convention. The Association pointed to patterns of mass civilian killings, the systematic destruction of infrastructure, the blockade, and the denial of food, medicine, and water as compelling evidence of an intent to destroy, in whole or in part, the Palestinian population. It called for urgent measures to halt the assault and support international accountability efforts.¹²⁶

The role of global corporations in enabling Israeli policies in Gaza also became evident. These companies were not neutral actors; rather, they became embedded within a system that sustains occupation and aggression. The report identified companies operating in the sectors of armaments, technology and surveillance, heavy equipment, and finance, which were directly or indirectly complicit through the supply of weapons, the provision of technological infrastructure for control and monitoring, and the facilitation of financial operations.¹²⁷

On 18 September 2025, Amnesty International published a briefing that revealed the involvement of (15) multinational corporations in supporting Israeli violations against Palestinians, including enabling Israel to continue committing genocide and policies of starvation. The report affirmed that the persistence of occupation and the apartheid system would not have been possible without international economic and commercial support.¹²⁸

¹²² Albanese, *From Economy of Occupation to Economy of Genocide: Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967 (A/HRC/59/23)*.

¹²³ The Guardian, "Global Firms 'Profiting from Genocide' in Gaza, Says UN Rapporteur," 3 July 2025.

¹²⁴ Ibid.

¹²⁵ Albanese, *From Economy of Occupation to Economy of Genocide: Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967 (A/HRC/59/23)*.

¹²⁶ International Association of Genocide Scholars, "Reactions to IAGS resolution on Gaza," IAGS, 4 September 2025.

¹²⁷ The Guardian, "Global Firms 'Profiting from Genocide' in Gaza, Says UN Rapporteur."

¹²⁸ Amnesty International, "Globally: Confronting the Global Political Economy That Enables Israel to Commit Genocide, Entrench Occupation, and Impose an Apartheid System," Amnesty International, September 18, 2025. (in Arabic).

The list included major military companies and technology corporations such as Boeing, Lockheed Martin, Palantir Technologies, Hikvision, CAF, and HD Hyundai, in addition to Israeli corporations such as Elbit Systems, Rafael, Israel Aerospace Industries, and Mekorot. The report recommended imposition of a complete ban on the export of weapons, military technologies, and surveillance equipment to Israel, along with the implementation of practical measures, including divestment, contract termination, and suspension of sales with the implicated companies.¹²⁹

Accordingly, Albanese's report stresses that accountability should not be limited to military and political actors but must also extend to corporations that materially benefited from Israel's violations. It proposes two complementary pathways: first, international criminal accountability through investigations into corporate complicity in enabling or facilitating war crimes and crimes against humanity; second, economic and civil accountability through sanctions and restrictions on complicit companies, the activation of compensation mechanisms for victims, and the tightening of national legislation concerning corporate responsibility in armed conflicts.

"The role of global corporations in enabling Israeli policies in Gaza also became evident. These companies were not neutral actors; rather, they became embedded within a system that sustains occupation and aggression."

What is unfolding in the Gaza Strip does not represent isolated violations, but a systematic framework described as the "economy of genocide," in which military and economic dimensions are deeply intertwined. It is therefore imperative that international accountability measures encompass not only the direct perpetrators but also the global economic actors who enabled and profited from these violations.

2.3 Pressure on the Humanitarian Aid System and Its Transformation into a Tool of Domination

A new mechanism was established to coordinate the entry and distribution of humanitarian assistance. This mechanism emerged as a direct response to mounting international pressure and the worsening plight of civilians. It placed responsibility for managing aid flows with the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), in cooperation with key agencies such as the World Food Programme (WFP) and UNRWA, whilst subjecting all consignments to prior Israeli approval before entry.¹³⁰

The mechanism involved multiple procedures, including prior authorisation, strict security inspections at Kerem Shalom or alternative crossings, and the exclusion of items classified as "dual-use," such as fuel and advanced medical equipment. It also applied logistical oversight by redirecting shipments to central warehouses managed by the UN before gradual distribution to hospitals, shelters, and distribution points. Digital tracking technologies were used to monitor trucks and parcels to enhance transparency and reduce diversion or misappropriation of aid,¹³¹ with some involvement of local organisations in distribution. However, the contribution of local actors remains limited due to severe restrictions on movement and the absence of security guarantees.¹³²

The Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF)—a U.S.-based nonprofit established in February 2025—began aid distribution operations in May 2025. The organisation manages four main distribution points in Gaza in

¹²⁹ Ibid.

¹³⁰ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Humanitarian Situation Update #311: Gaza Strip.

¹³¹ "With Photos and Videos: Events of the Aid Distribution Crisis in Gaza," Al Jazeera, June 1, 2025, Accessed August 31, 2025. (in Arabic).

¹³² UNRWA, UNRWA Situation Report #186 on the Humanitarian Crisis in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.

collaboration with American private security contractors and in coordination with the Israeli army.¹³³ These locations are concentrated in Rafah, in areas subject to evacuation orders by the Israeli military; one site in Gaza City near the border with Deir al-Balah, where hundreds of thousands of Palestinians were displaced; and another in the northern part of the Strip.¹³⁴

Reports issued by the United Nations and humanitarian organisations indicated that GHF failed to adhere to established humanitarian principles and accused it of weaponising aid. They warned that its activities may contribute to the depopulation of northern Gaza in line with Israeli military plans. GHF has faced sharp criticism from human rights organisations and the UN, with reports stating that more than (2,340) Palestinians were killed while attempting to reach the organisation's distribution centres, which were described as "death traps."¹³⁵ In August 2025, the UN Human Rights Office called for GHF's dismantlement, asserting that its operations were exacerbating the humanitarian crisis.¹³⁶

According to GHF's official data, more than (142) million meals had been distributed by August 2025, at an average rate of approximately (2.3) million meals per week.¹³⁷ However, these food distributions were accompanied by direct Israeli attacks at GHF distribution sites, with reports from the UN Human Rights Office documenting dozens of civilians killed daily whilst waiting for aid near these centres. These incidents were attributed to gunfire from Israeli forces targeting the gathered crowds.

International humanitarian organisations face a complex set of challenges that have significantly affected their capacity to deliver assistance. Security restrictions and the closure of border crossings have been amongst the most critical obstacles. Continuous bombardment and mass displacement have further impeded aid delivery to the hardest-hit areas whilst exposing humanitarian facilities to grave risks. According to OCHA, (235) attacks on humanitarian facilities were documented during the first half of 2024, leading to the partial suspension of many relief programs and obstructing effective humanitarian operations.¹³⁸

"Reports issued by the United Nations and humanitarian organisations indicated that GHF failed to adhere to established humanitarian principles and accused it of weaponising aid."

Funding shortages also represent a major barrier to aid programmes. Approximately 60 percent of humanitarian projects in Gaza were suspended during the second quarter of 2024 due to acute financial shortfalls, highlighting the vast gap between rising humanitarian needs and available resources. Logistical challenges have compounded these difficulties: infrastructure damage—including to roads and warehouses—delayed aid distribution and limited its timely delivery to beneficiaries.¹³⁹

Humanitarian organisations face legal and political restrictions that in some cases require special permits from Israeli authorities, alongside limits on the number of foreign staff allowed into Gaza. These constraints undermine organisational flexibility and the ability to respond swiftly to emergencies. The challenges are not only material and logistical but also psychological as humanitarian workers are exposed to immense stress from witnessing

¹³³ Hassan El-Tayyab, "Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF) and the Weaponization of Aid," Friends Committee on National Legislation, 5 June 2025.

¹³⁴ "With Photos and Videos: Events of the Aid Distribution Crisis in Gaza," (In Arabic).

¹³⁵ Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), MSF's Response to the Israel–Gaza War, Updated August 2025.

¹³⁶ "UN Experts Call for Immediate Dismantling of Gaza Humanitarian Foundation," Press Release, United Nations, August 2025

¹³⁷ Ibid.

¹³⁸ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Humanitarian Situation Update No. 235 | Gaza Strip, September 2024. (in Arabic).

¹³⁹ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Humanitarian Situation Update No. 300 | Gaza Strip, June 2025. (in Arabic).

widespread destruction and continuous suffering, negatively affecting their performance and endurance. A World Health Organization study conducted in mid-2024 found that nearly (30) percent of humanitarian workers in Gaza were experiencing psychological disorders linked to the ongoing conditions.¹⁴⁰

These security, funding, logistical, legal, and psychological challenges have created an extraordinary and complex operating environment for international humanitarian organisations. This requires integrated and adaptive strategies to strengthen their ability to deliver aid effectively and sustainably, ensuring that it reaches the most vulnerable populations in Gaza.

Figure (6): Targeting of Kitchens, Food Distribution Points, and Bakeries



At the local level, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in Gaza also face serious challenges that undermine their capacity to deliver humanitarian assistance effectively. There are an estimated (47) such organisations spread across the north and south of the Strip. These NGOs rely heavily on intermittent external funding, whether from Arab or international sources. Reports indicate that only around (20) percent of these organisations are able to pay staff salaries in full, amid donor concerns about financial management capacity and the difficulties of transferring funds to Gaza due to banking restrictions.¹⁴¹ Funding shortages directly affect the living conditions of staff members, who themselves suffer from high levels of food insecurity—reflecting the collective hunger affecting all segments of society.¹⁴²

These challenges have been compounded by rising operational costs due to extensive infrastructure damage, soaring food and medicine prices, and the continuous need to secure fuel for field kitchens, hospitals, and distribution points. Delayed or unstable funding has forced organisations to reprioritise and scale down assistance, focusing primarily on the most vulnerable cases—thereby widening humanitarian gaps in certain areas of the Strip.¹⁴³

Despite these restrictions, local organisations have adopted flexible strategies to maintain continuity of humanitarian operations, including diversifying funding sources, partnering with international agencies, and reallocating resources efficiently. Nevertheless, intermittent funding remains a decisive factor shaping their capacity for emergency response, directly impacting the sustainability of humanitarian programs and the protection of beneficiaries in this highly precarious environment.¹⁴⁴

¹⁴⁰ Palestinian Ministry of Health – Gaza, Health Report on Damage to Medical Facilities and Health Personnel in the Gaza Strip 2025. (in Arabic).

¹⁴¹ Palestinian NGOs Network, The Palestinian NGOs Network Issues a Study to Assess the Reality of Civil Society Organizations in the Gaza Strip (Ramallah: PNGO, 9 August 2024).

¹⁴² Ibid.

¹⁴³ NGO snapshot report highlights latest aid challenges in Gaza amid growing safety risks, 11 September 2024.

¹⁴⁴ Palestinian Non-Governmental Organizations Network (PNGO), Grand Bargain Funding in Palestine: Between Slogans and Implementation: A Study on the Reality of Implementing the Commitments of the Grand Bargain in Palestine (Gaza: PNGO, May 2025).

2.4 Destruction of Humanitarian Capacities

The humanitarian space in Gaza has severely diminished, with direct consequences for the ability of international and local organisations to respond to the population's mounting needs. Strict restrictions were imposed on the movement of personnel and humanitarian supplies, work permits for international staff suspended or denied, and humanitarian corridors closed or severely reduced. Estimates suggest that nearly (82) percent of the Gaza Strip has been transformed into closed military zones or areas of forced displacement, effectively undermining the humanitarian operating environment.¹⁴⁵

Humanitarian workers have also faced severe levels of direct targeting, resulting in the killing of no fewer than (412) humanitarian staff members due to Israeli airstrikes and shelling. This toll includes (291) UN employees, (51) staff and volunteers from the Palestinian Red Crescent, (12) employees of Médecins Sans Frontières, (10) staff and volunteers of the World Central Kitchen of various nationalities, and (4) employees of the International Committee of the Red Cross, in addition to (44) staff from other humanitarian organisations. These figures highlight the extreme risks faced by humanitarian personnel and the profound negative impact of Israeli policy on the capacity of aid organisations to deliver essential assistance to Gaza's civilian population.¹⁴⁶

"The targeting of humanitarian workers and food assistance reflects a broader policy to dismantle the humanitarian space in Gaza."

The United Nations documented the targeting of more than (200) food distribution points, along with (180) kitchens and (25) bakeries.¹⁴⁷ The World Food Programme played a central role in operating bakeries and distributing electronic vouchers, yet approximately (90) percent of aid delivery attempts failed due to the blockade, restrictions on entry, heavy security constraints, continuous bombardment of supply chains, and the collapse of road infrastructure. These factors rendered access to besieged areas nearly impossible and exposed civilians seeking aid to direct threats to their lives.¹⁴⁸ Other international organisations, such as the World Central Kitchen—which distributed more than (130) million meals and (26) million loaves of bread with logistical support from Anera—were forced to suspend operations following the targeting of their staff.¹⁴⁹

A comparison between 2024 and 2025 illustrates a sharp escalation in both the scale and nature of attacks on the humanitarian sphere. In 2024, human rights organisations documented the deaths of nearly (250) humanitarian workers by May alone, including (31) relief workers killed in over (8) direct attacks on convoys and offices of international organizations, as well as (226) UNRWA employees killed since October 2023.¹⁵⁰ In 2025, targeting intensified further, with the total number of humanitarian workers killed rising to more than (412)—nearly double the previous figure. This demonstrates a qualitative shift in the conduct of Israeli forces, from sporadic strikes on aid convoys to a deliberate policy aimed at dismantling the humanitarian system itself through the killing of staff and destruction of relief infrastructure.

¹⁴⁵ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA oPt), Humanitarian Situation Update #319 | Gaza Strip.

¹⁴⁶ Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), MSF's Response to the Israel–Gaza War, Updated August 2025.

¹⁴⁷ "UN says 613 Gaza killings recorded at aid sites near humanitarian convoys." Al Jazeera, June 2025.

¹⁴⁸ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Geospatial Information for Sustainable Food Systems: Damage to Agricultural Infrastructure due to the Conflict in the Gaza Strip as of 30 April 2025, Published 27 May 2025.

¹⁴⁹ Anera, The First World Central Kitchen Trucks Enter Gaza, (Beirut: Anera, 2023).

¹⁵⁰ "UNRWA Situation Report #142 on the Situation in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, Including East Jerusalem," UNRWA, 4 October 2024, Accessed 14 October 2024.

Table (7): Humanitarian Worker Fatalities in the Gaza Strip since October 2023

Targeted Group	Number of Fatalities
United Nations staff	291
Palestinian Red Crescent staff and volunteers	51
Médecins Sans Frontières staff	12
World Central Kitchen staff and volunteers	10
International Committee of the Red Cross staff	4
Staff of other humanitarian organizations	44
Total	412

On 23 March 2025, Tel al-Sultan camp in Rafah witnessed what became known as the “Paramedics’ Massacre,” when Israeli forces targeted two convoys of ambulances, civil defence, and UNRWA vehicles during a rescue mission, killing 15 paramedics and aid workers, who were buried in a mass grave alongside their destroyed vehicles. OCHA’s field mission documented evidence of summary executions, concluding that the victims were killed whilst carrying out their humanitarian duties. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies condemned the incident as “the deadliest attack on humanitarian workers in nearly a decade,” whilst human rights organisations deemed it a war crime under International Humanitarian Law due to the deliberate targeting of medical personnel.

The targeting of humanitarian workers and food assistance reflects a broader policy to dismantle the humanitarian space in Gaza, compounding the crisis by depriving civilians of life-sustaining resources and support. It underscores the urgent need for safer and more neutral aid distribution models to ensure that assistance reaches all those in need without placing lives at risk. The repeated incidents reveal a systematic pattern of attacks on humanitarian workers and organisations, weakening their operational capacity and deepening the suffering of a population reliant on aid.

Human Rights Watch has called for the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory to be allowed to carry out its mandate of documenting and analysing violations, including those committed against humanitarian personnel, which are legally classified as war crimes and fall within the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court.¹⁵¹ These practices constitute a flagrant violation of Common Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions, as well as provisions granting humanitarian workers and relief facilities special protection in armed conflicts.

¹⁵¹ Human Rights Watch, “Gaza: Israeli Killings of Palestinians Seeking Food Are War Crimes,” HRW, 1 August 2025.



Conclusion

Gaza and the Global Unravelling of the Humanitarian Order

This report—produced after two years of intensive Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip—presents a picture that goes beyond mere statistics, maps, and charts to reveal a project of genocide that does not merely aim to destroy physical infrastructure, but targets the very essence of Palestinian society and the material, social, and cultural foundations of its survival. The near-total destruction of health, education, water and sanitation networks, and the repeated forced displacement that has turned the population into itinerant masses without shelter are not incidental by-products of war. Rather, they constitute calculated instruments within a strategy aimed at the systematic destruction of Gaza and its population.

The war, with its policies of systematic starvation and deliberate targeting of relief systems and humanitarian workers, has exposed the limits of the existing state-based order. It is unable to halt crimes or protect civilians. Humanitarian principles have been converted into mechanisms for managing the crisis rather than helping in resolving it.

Gaza, in this sense, is not merely a local battleground; it is an example of a deeper global crisis in which warfare, political economy, and humanitarian practice converge in a single system whose objective is the reproduction of domination. If this logic of extermination remains unaccounted for, it will threaten not only Palestinians, but the very foundations of the international order. Hence, the responsibility generated by the genocide in Gaza transcends the mere cessation of ongoing crimes: it requires a redefinition of international justice and the construction of a legal and ethical order capable of holding power to account rather than capitulating to it.

The immediate next phase must focus on activating clear and transparent accountability mechanisms backed by international institutions able to document violations and prosecute perpetrators. It also requires a rethinking of humanitarian delivery mechanisms to ensure their independence and to prevent their instrumentalisation for political or administrative control. These steps are not merely local demands; they are essential prerequisites for restoring confidence in the international system and its effectiveness.

What the reality in Gaza reveals is not only a humanitarian catastrophe, but also the utter collapse of the humanitarian and international legal order—principles designed to protect civilians have been rendered ineffective in the face of military force.

This report, with its evidence and analysis, is therefore not merely another document to be archived; it is a clarion call to critically rethink the foundations of international justice and to reclaim hope for a people facing genocide.

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