On 7 October 2023, Palestinian armed groups in Gaza launched “Operation Al-Aqsa Flood” against Israel, injuring, killing, and capturing many Israeli forces and civilians. In response, the Israeli authorities declared a state of war and began a campaign of heavy bombardments on Gaza – resulting in the injuries and deaths of thousands of Palestinians, out of which more than 65 per cent are women and children.

Over 1.4 million people fled their homes in Gaza since violence erupted on 7 October and hundreds of thousands of civilians have little-to-no access to basic commodities including food, water, electricity and fuel. In addition, the deteriorating security situation in the West Bank and border areas between Israel and Lebanon has led to the internal displacement of about 19,646 persons mainly from Southern Lebanon. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) reiterates the UN calls for an immediate end to the escalating violence and for a humanitarian ceasefire to avert an even greater catastrophe. Humanitarian access is critical to allow delivery of aid to the most vulnerable and seriously affected populations, as well as a safe passage for third-country nationals trapped in Gaza.
IOM has received requests from governments to help 1,071 Third Country Nationals (TCNs), including women and children, return to their countries of origin.

**In Lebanon**, IOM is responding to the ongoing internal displacement and working closely with UN and government partners. As co-lead of the Site Coordination sector (covering Shelter and CCCM), IOM is supporting inter-sector contingency planning to ensure alignment of planning assumptions across sectors. Since 8 October, there has been a notable increase in cross-border strikes between Israel and Lebanon, leading to the internal displacement of people in the south of Lebanon and other parts of the country. In response to these developments, IOM’s Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) initiated the daily monitoring of population movements on 10 October. The primary objective of this exercise is to provide essential information for preparedness and response planning. As of 21 October, a total of 19,646 internally displaced persons have been identified by DTM, representing a significant increase of 52 per cent (6,792 individuals) compared to 18 October. IOM DTM is also coordinating with Lebanese Red Cross (LRC) on assessing approximately 22 out of 77 shelters provided by Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) and will also map additional designated shelters in close coordination with Caritas and UNRWA. On 19 to 20 October, IOM in collaboration with SHEILD, delivered 400 mattresses, 400 blankets, and 300 pillows to the Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Unit in Tyre, South Lebanon, to help meet the needs of families displaced from southern Lebanon. In addition, IOM partnered with the DRR Unit in Tyre to deliver hygiene and dignity kits to 250 displaced individuals.

**In Jordan**, IOM is closely coordinating with UNRWA HQ to identify areas in need of support to scale up the humanitarian and health response. Through its Global Fund Middle East Response, IOM continues to coordinate the health assistance to HIV/TB patients in both Gaza and West Bank, through provision of medication – a total of 70 patients are currently benefiting from this assistance.

**In Egypt**, IOM has handed over 8,005 non-food items and 3,000 tarps to the Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC) for onward distribution to UNRWA and the Palestinian Red Crescent. On 23 October the mission held a Donor Briefing attended by representatives from 16 countries to discuss the critical humanitarian situation, identified pressing needs, and importance of their support to address the crisis. IOM is urgently appealing for USD 69 million to support its response to the rising critical humanitarian needs of hundreds of thousands of civilians in the occupied Palestinian territories and neighboring countries affected by the ongoing hostilities.

Your support is critical in our mission to deliver emergency aid to displaced families in Gaza and in surrounding countries impacted by the crisis and hostilities.