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 68 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 28,965 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 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 Territory 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.
As of 31 October, IOM has received requests from governments to help 1,916 Third Country Nationals (TCNs), including women and children, return to their countries of origin.

In Lebanon, daily clashes have continued along the southern border with Israel, with increased intensity. The affected target area is slowly, but steadily increasing in depth on both sides of the border, including a recent incident on 28 October that was reported as far as seven kilometers inland from the southern border line in Lebanon. As of 26 October, 28,965 internally displaced persons (IDPs) have been identified by DTM across 236 cadasters. This is an approximate increase of 7,847 (+37.15%) IDPs since the Round 7 data collection date. The DTM Mobility Snapshot is produced jointly with the Lebanese Red Cross and the Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Unit and is the leading source of displacement data for Lebanon.

IOM continues its preparedness and response efforts in coordination with the government and partners to respond to the ongoing internal displacement and is expanding coverage of health and other multi-sectoral support, including protection and non-food items. As lead agency for the Collective Site Coordination sector, IOM continues to support inter-sector contingency planning to capture needs and priority activities and is coordinating with the government to identify additional collective shelter sites. On 28 October, the IOM Lebanon Head of Office and the IOM Head of Programs travelled to Tyre in Southern Lebanon to meet with the OCHA Director of Operations and Advocacy, the Minister of Environment, and the UN Humanitarian Coordinator to discuss emergency preparedness measures in collaboration with the government of Lebanon and UN partners.

In Jordan, IOM Jordan is in the process of procuring medical equipment to be donated to the Jordanian Royal Medical Services (RMS). The Royal Medical Services are a branch of the Jordanian Armed Forces (JAF), they have been and continue to operate a hospital inside Gaza. They are currently in the process of negotiating access to deploy two additional mobile clinics and a team of specialized surgeons to Gaza. The IOM donations are based on assessed needs of the RMS and will support their medical response and scale up inside Gaza and expected to be handed over within the next few weeks.

In Egypt, IOM has handed over 8,005 non-food items and 3,000 tarsps to the Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC) for onward distribution to UNRWA and the Palestinian Red Crescent. An additional 1,750 units of medicine have been added to the pipeline for distribution. IOM continues to coordinate the response with partners and government, whilst also meeting with new potential partners to advance and enhance IOM’s logistics capacity to transfer items into Gaza.

IOM RESPONSE

Many families are residing in non-furnished houses and need immediate support.

To support the Government of Lebanon’s National Response Plan, IOM, in coordination with local authorities is also prepositioning shelter and non-food items (shelter kit, solar lamps, blankets, mattresses, and kitchen sets) for at least 1,200 households which is expected to be delivered mid-November. At the request of the Ministry of Public Health, IOM is procuring medication, trauma kits, emergency health kits (EHK) and non-communicable diseases (NCD) kit. The items are expected to be delivered to the Ministry of Public Health by the end of the week.

On 28 October, IOM Lebanon Head of Office (Mathieu Luciano) and Head of Programmes (Duncan Sullivan) met with Edem Wosonu (OCHA Director of Operations and Advocacy), Nasser Yassin (Minister of Environment), MP Anaya Ezzedine and Imran Riza (UN Humanitarian Coordinator for Lebanon) in Tyre, South Lebanon to discuss emergency preparedness measures in collaboration with the government of Lebanon and UN partners. © IOM 2023