On 7 October 2023, Palestinian armed groups in Gaza launched “Operation Al-Aqsa Flood”, 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 67 per cent are women and children.

Over 1.68 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 46,325 persons mainly from Southern Lebanon.

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 territories and neighboring countries affected by the ongoing hostilities. IOM’s funding received to date has been around 2.6 million USD, received from internal funding streams in headquarters as a front-loading effort to kick start operations and meet the most urgent needs.

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 16 November, IOM has received requests from governments to support 2,239 Third Country Nationals (TCNs), including women and children and those with medical conditions, to return to their countries of origin from across the region in response to the crisis. IOM is providing support upon the request of the Embassies with land and air transportation, basic necessities (such as hygiene and dignity kits), accommodation, protection screening, health assessment and flights.

In Lebanon, between 12 and 13 November, cross border clashes increased in scale and frequency compared to previous weeks, which contributed to higher displacements in Lebanon’s southern governorates. As of 14 November 2023, Lebanon DTM* has recorded 46,325 internally displaced persons (IDPs), showing a 76% increase since 7 November. The majority of IDPs (70%) are located in five districts out of the total 25 districts hosting IDPs — specifically, Sour, El Nabatieh, Aley, Beirut, and Saida. Notably, 51% of the total IDPs are in Saida, Sour, and El Nabatieh districts, likely because these districts are close to where the majority of the IDPs are displaced from. Around 64% of IDPs are currently living with host families, while 27% have opted for rented housing. Others have either relocated to their secondary residences, are housed in collective shelters, or are staying in incomplete or unfinished buildings.

IOM has purchased 12,128 items including medication boxes, IV solutions, different types of catheters and other medical items (bandages, gauzes, plasters, gloves and sutures) to replenish and preposition stocks of the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH). IOM is now organizing the delivery of the items in coordination with the supplier and MoPH with the delivery of medical supplies expected on 17 November whilst the delivery of medicines is expected for next week. Additionally, Trauma, Noncommunicable Diseases Kits (NCD) and Interagency Emergency Health Kits (IEHK) procured for prepositioning are expected to be delivered in Lebanon during the last week of November. IOM will also procure a further 471 packs of medical supplies in the coming weeks.

In response to the increasing number of displaced individuals in southern Lebanon, IOM, together with SHEILD, have distributed core relief items (including mattresses, blankets and pillows) to 1,350 IDPs in southern Lebanon since 8 November. Additionally, IOM is planning further distributions next week. To support the Government of Lebanon’s National Response Plan, IOM, in coordination with local authorities is also continuing to preposition additional shelter and non-food items (shelter kits, solar lamps, blankets, mattresses, and kitchen sets) for at least 1,200 households which are expected to be delivered by mid-November.

As the lead agency of the Collective Site Coordination within the Shelter and Site Coordination Sector, IOM is continuing to support inter-sector contingency planning and response to ensure the provision of coordinated assistance, services, and protection in designated emergency shelters and other displacement sites. IOM led the first Site Coordination meeting on 15 November with site management partners and agencies to discuss site coordination priority activities and identify needs and gaps.

IOM organized a one-day training on Psychological First Aid (PFA) for frontline workers of embassies and consulates of migrants’ countries of origin. The objective of this training was to provide a comprehensive overview the key factors influencing migrants’ well-being and mental health, the psychosocial consequences of migration, key principles for the psychological well-being of migrants as well as the basic objectives of PFA. The training also outlined the guidelines and key actions for delivering and mainstreaming PFA as an approach to migrant assistance and protection.

This week, IOM also started the implementation of psychosocial support sessions for IDPs in Al Mouch and Abbasiyeh Municipalities.

In Jordan, On 16 November, IOM handed over a generator and 1,100 medical supplies and surgical equipment items to the Jordanian Royal Medical Services (RMS) to be used to support the RMS’s field hospital and medical teams in Gaza.

IOM continues engaging with the Resident Coordinator, UN Country Team and key donors and other partners to discuss the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, regional impacts and ensure coordination across agencies.

In Egypt, IOM donated 3,000 tarpaulins, 6,013 medicines and medical items, 1,046 hygiene items, 600 mattresses, blankets and bedsheets, and 500 dignity kits to the Egyptian Red Crescent on 15 and 16 October. The items were loaded onto 2 trucks during two separate convoys that crossed the border into Gaza for onward distribution. Additionally, IOM donated 30,000 bottles of water to the Egyptian Red Crescent’s for onward transport into Gaza.

Between 02 and 15 November, IOM Egypt supported a total of 256 Third Country Nationals (TCNs) with various types of assistance including accommodation, land transport, air transport, and/or medical assistance (referrals, fit-to-travel checks, medical screening, etc.) at the request of their respective Embassies. IOM expects to support an additional 50 to 60 TCNs in the coming days. IOM is coordinating closely its support to TCNs with the Government of Egypt and the ERC, and to date has delivered a total of 180 hygiene kits upon the direct request of an Embassy to support their evacuated TCNs in Egypt.

To support medical evacuations from the border, IOM is procuring 54,700 medicines to be donated to the Egyptian Ambulance Authority under the Ministry of Health and Population. In two shipments, IOM will be receiving 34,920 non-food items (NFIs), including hygiene kits, jerry cans, and blankets, from the ECHO European Humanitarian Response Capacity (EHRC) for in-kind donation to the Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC) and onward transportation to Gaza. Also, 50,000 nonfood items, including blankets, kitchen sets, mattresses, jerry cans, and lamps, will be arriving from the IOM Global Stocks in Egypt in the coming weeks to be donated to ERC for onward transport and distribution in Gaza.

*The DTM Mobility Snapshot is produced jointly with the Lebanese Red Cross (LRC) and the government’s Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Unit and is the leading source of displacement data for Lebanon.