

REGIONAL RESPONSE TO THE CRISIS IN OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY

SITUATION REPORT #20 7 MARCH 2024

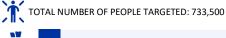
1.70 million

INTERNALLY DISPLACED IN GAZA (as of 25 February)

90,859

INTERNALLY DISPLACED IN LEBANON (as of 5 March)

Appeal Status



RECEIVED: \$ 9.2 M REQUESTED: \$69.13 M



Handover of field hospital to JAF-RMS on behalf of and in coordination with Direct Relief © IOM 2024

HIGHLIGHTS

- Jamie McGoldrick, the UN's Humanitarian Coordinator for the Occupied Palestinian Territory, stated on 6 March that hunger in Gaza has reached catastrophic levels, calling for a plan to address the crisis which includes the use of access road used by the military to reach northern Gaza.
- On 4 March, the UNRWA Commissioner-General, Philippe Lazzarini, addressed the UN General Assembly and warned that UNRWA is functioning 'hand-to-mouth' and that the fate of the Agency 'hangs in the balance.' The Commissioner-General also stated that 'UNRWA's mandate embodies the promise of a fair and lasting political solution' and that 'dismantling the Agency in
- Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, would only serve those who oppose such a solution.'
- The shelter rapid assessment was piloted in Rafah across 33 UNRWA designated sites, over 40% of which are schools. Main findings reveal that one meter square is the average per person per shelter, 93% of people find that the shelters do not provide enough privacy, and 67% of families are sharing one shelter.
- The WASH rapid assessment was also completed and covered 41 sites and 608,754 individuals. General findings revealed that people only have access to 2 litres of water per day, 80% of all sites have non-functional latrines, 61% of shelters have no showers and hygiene materials are mostly unavailable.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

The latest large-scale escalation of conflict in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory on 7 October 2023 has led to an unprecedented humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza. Intense Israeli bombardment and ground operations as well as heavy fighting between Israeli forces and Palestinian armed groups continue to be reported across much of the Gaza Strip. As of 25 February, UNRWA estimates that some 75 per cent of Gaza's population (1.7 million out of 2.3 million people) more than half of whom are children, are displaced. Most are living in makeshift structures, tents, or out in the open. Access to basic services remains severely limited — the lack of food, water, fuel, basic items and poor hygiene practices, further exacerbate people's living conditions, amplifying protection and mental health risks, as well as the risks associated to the spread of disease. Hospitals in Gaza continue to face severe disruptions in providing health care. On 4 March, the Ministry of Health in Gaza announced that, since the onset of the conflict, 155

health facilities had been damaged, and 32 hospitals and 53 health centres had been rendered non-functional, due to attacks or shortages of essentials. Hunger in the enclave has grown explonationally since the start of the crisis and over 81% of those displaced lack access to safe water. Long clearance procedures for humanitarian aid trucks at the border, intense ground operation and fighting, frequent disruption in communication, along with increased insecurity, blocked roads, and scarcity of fuel, pose significant challenges to humanitarian operations.

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 neighbouring 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.

IOM RESPONSE

LEBANON

90.859 IDPs have been recorded as of 5 March

5,611 individuals reached with multi-sectoral humanitarian assistance

561 individuals (406 women) have received Psycho-Social Support (PSS) from IOM and partners since October

As of 5 March 2024, IOM Lebanon's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM)* has recorded 90,859 internally displaced persons (IDPs), showing a 0.47 per cent decrease since 27 February 2024. Most of these IDPs are located in five districts out of a total 24 districts hosting IDPs — specifically, Sour, Nabatieh, Baabda, Beirut, and Saida. The displacement covers 431 locations (villages or neighbourhoods) across 350 cadasters throughout Lebanon, spanning 24 districts in all eight governorates. Notably, 61 per cent of the total IDPs are located in three districts, Saida, Sour, and El Nabatieh, likely because these districts are close to where the majority of IDPs are displaced from. Around 79 per cent of IDPs are currently living with host families, while 15 per cent are renting their shelters. Around 2 per cent are housed in collective shelters, another 4 per cent have relocated to their secondary residences. The number of collective shelters for people displaced by the conflict stands at 18.

IOM continues to support the Lebanese Government to strengthen emergency preparedness and response capacities. During the last two weeks, IOM Lebanon's Site Coordination team participated in more than nine meetings with various stakeholder such as the Intersector, Sector coordination team, Site Coordination partners and Disaster Risk Management (DRM) to discuss response plans, challenges and gaps. Coordination efforts focused on capacity building plans for implementing partners, identifying capacity of relevant partners for Sit Management, and to raise better awareness on the Site Management Support approach to improve the management of Collective Shelters for IDPs.

IOM through its implementing partner SHEILD continues to respond to the emergency in South Lebanon by distributing core relief items to internally displaced families. On 6 March 2024, IOM conducted distributions in Azray and Marwanieh in Saida. Mattresses and blankets were delivered to 216 beneficiaries in Azray and 109 beneficiaries in Marwanieh. In total, 325 IDPs who have fled the hostilities have been assisted. In addition, IOM and SHEILD continue to implement protection activities including PSS sessions, recreational activities, and case management to IDPs and host communities in Sour and Nabatieh.

JORDAN

Completed the handover of field hospital to Jordanian Armed Forces (JAF) - Royal Medical Services (RMS) on behalf of and in coordination with Direct Relief

IOM supported the NGO Direct Relief in its donation of a fully equipped level-2 medical field hospital, featuring additional level-3 capabilities, to the JAF - RMS for deployment to Gaza. Comprising of 50 beds, 38 tents, and a comprehensive array of medical and surgical equipment, along with vital medications, this donation aims to strengthen the already existing RMS field hospital capacity within Gaza. IOM will additionally equip the field hospital with two large generators and 10 climate control systems to ensure optimal operational conditions for surgical and pharmaceutical facilities.



Handover of field hospital to JAF-RMS on behalf of and in coordination with Direct Relief © IOM

EGYPT

727 Third Country Nationals and family members supported

 $3\ \text{cargo}$ flights carrying tents, NFIs, shelter and WASH items received during the reporting period

Since November 2023, IOM Egypt supported 727 Third Country Nationals (TCNs), family members, and evacuees with various types of assistance including accommodation, land transport, air transport, protection assistance, and/or medical assistance (including medical referrals and fit-to-travel checks) at the request of their respective Embassies.

Since 22 of February, IOM, in partnership with the Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC), has received 3 cargo flights consisting of NFIs, shelter and WASH items. 12 trucks have been dispatched to the Rafah border crossing of which 6 have crossed for onward distribution inside Gaza by the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and Oxfam. This brings the total number of trucks dispatched since October 2023 to 180, of which 161 have crossed into Gaza. The increasing difficulty in delivering humanitarian aid is severely affecting operations to serve those most in need.

DONORS:



MIGRATION











*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.

