



**List of publicly available resources:  
Gaza Strip and UNRWA programming and financial situation  
August 2021**

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (“UNRWA” or “the Agency”) frequently receives questions about the humanitarian situation and the Agency’s operations in Gaza and other UNRWA fields of operation from individuals, legal representatives, case workers and authorities outside UNRWA fields of operation. In response, the Agency would like to draw attention to available information as set out below.

UNRWA provides humanitarian assistance and mandated services, primarily in the form of basic education, primary health and mental health care, relief and social services, microcredit and emergency assistance to some 5.7 million registered Palestine refugees located within its five fields of operation (Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and Gaza) pending a just and lasting solution to their plight. While UNRWA’s mandate focuses on Palestine refugees, the Agency also extends services on a humanitarian basis to other eligible persons of concern to UNRWA as per the Agency’s regulatory framework and eligibility criteria contained in the Consolidated Eligibility and Registration Instructions (CERI) of 2009, including, among others, “non-registered persons displaced as a result of the 1967 and subsequent hostilities”.<sup>1</sup> UNRWA has no mandate to operate outside its fields of operation, or to seek durable solutions for refugees.

UNRWA regularly publishes available information relating to its services and, where available, seeks to provide information and analysis on the humanitarian and protection situation in UNRWA’s fields of operation in cooperation with other UN agencies. The resources listed here contain recent information in relation to the humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip and UNRWA’s operations, including the Agency’s financial situation. For the most recent information we recommend consulting UNRWA’s official website at [www.unrwa.org](http://www.unrwa.org) as well as UNRWA’s webpage devoted to the emergency in Gaza at <https://www.unrwa.org/gaza-emergency>.

### **Key UN resources on the situation in the Gaza Strip:**

- **UNRWA publications** on the situation of Palestine refugees in the Gaza Strip can be found in the Agency’s website, please see <https://www.unrwa.org/resources>. In particular:
  - For **statements and press releases**, please see <https://www.unrwa.org/newsroom>.
  - For **annual reports**, which provide valuable information on the context in which UNRWA operates and the situation of Palestine refugees, in addition to providing information on service lines, please see <https://www.unrwa.org/resources/reports>.
    - UNRWA, Annual Operational Report, 2020, available at: <https://www.unrwa.org/resources/about-unrwa/annual-operational-report-2020>
    - UNRWA, Report of the Commissioner-General, 2019 (A/75/13) available at: <https://undocs.org/pdf?symbol=en/A/75/13>
  - For **other UNRWA public information**, please see other sections of the website dedicated to UNRWA services in Gaza at <https://www.unrwa.org/where-we-work/gaza-strip>, Agency protection activities at <https://www.unrwa.org/what-we-do/protection> and those addressing the enduring emergency in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt), in particular <https://www.unrwa.org/gaza-emergency>.

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<sup>1</sup> UNRWA, Consolidated Eligibility and Registration Instructions (CERI), 2009, page 7, available at: <https://www.unrwa.org/resources/strategy-policy/consolidated-eligibility-and-registration-instructions>

- The **United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (“OCHA”)** regularly publishes reports on the protection of civilians, the humanitarian situation in the oPt and situation reports, available at <https://www.ochaopt.org/publications>.
- The **United Nations Country Team in the occupied Palestinian territory (“UNCT”)** has published reports on the living conditions faced by residents of Gaza:
  - The 2017 report, *Gaza Ten Years Later*, is available at <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/gaza-ten-years-later>.
  - The foundational UNCT 2012 report analysing developmental, humanitarian and social imperatives and comprising anticipated trajectories for living conditions in Gaza, *Gaza in 2020. A liveable place?*, is available at <https://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/press-releases/gaza-2020-liveable-place>.
- The **World Health Organization (“WHO”)** publishes regular reports on the COVID-19 situation in Gaza: <http://www.emro.who.int/pse/palestine-news/landing-page-for-covid19.html>. The Occupied Palestinian Territory COVID-19 Response Plan (2020) includes information on the impact of COVID-19 in Gaza and is available at <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/occupied-palestinian-territory-covid-19-response-plan-24-april>.
- The **Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (“UNHCR”)** has also published reports related to the situation in Gaza; notably the UNHCR, Country of Origin Information on the Situation in the Gaza Strip, including Restrictions on Exit and Return (2018), available at <https://www.refworld.org/docid/5a9908ed4.html>, and UNHCR Position on Deportations to Gaza (2015) available at <https://www.refworld.org/docid/5448f2bea.html>.
- OCHA on behalf of the **Humanitarian Country Team** and partners publishes an annual Humanitarian response Plan for the occupied Palestinian territory, detailing the crisis context, for 2021 available at <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/humanitarian-response-plan-2021>.
- The **UNCT and other United Nations entities** forming part of the UNCT publish a wide range of thematic and issue specific reports, including in relation to the situation of women and children in the Gaza Strip and the impact of recent hostilities, notably the Gaza Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment (June 2021), available at <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/gaza-rapid-damage-and-needs-assessment-june-2021>. An overview of United Nations agencies operating in Gaza and related publications are accessible at <https://unsco.unmissions.org/un-country-team-0>.

### Resources containing general information about UNRWA’s operations and financial situation:

- UNRWA **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)** contain general information on, among others, the Agency’s mandate, neutrality, eligibility and registration of Palestine refugees, available at <https://www.unrwa.org/who-we-are/frequently-asked-questions> (in English, Arabic and German). The FAQs make clear, for instance, that UNRWA does not manage the refugee camps and is not responsible for protecting the physical safety or security of Palestine refugees or maintaining law and order in UNRWA’s fields of operation. The responsibility for ensuring the physical security of Palestine refugees residing in UNRWA’s fields of operation is the responsibility of the respective host authority.
- UNRWA’s website also contains information on current **funding appeals, voluntary donations and activities** carried out during reporting periods based on funding received through voluntary contributions.
  - For **funding appeals**, please see: <https://www.unrwa.org/resources/emergency-appeals>. Specific to the occupied Palestinian territory and Gaza, please see:
    - UNRWA, updated humanitarian and early recovery appeal - hostilities in Gaza and mounting tensions in the West Bank, May - December 2021 (issued June 2021), available at: <https://www.unrwa.org/resources/emergency-appeals/updated-humanitarian-and-early-recovery-appeal-hostilities-gaza-and>.

- UNRWA, Flash Appeal: initial 30-day response - hostilities in Gaza and mounting tension in the West Bank (issued May 2021), available at: <https://www.unrwa.org/resources/emergency-appeals/unrwa-flash-appeal-hostilities-gaza-and-mounting-tensions-west-bank>.
- UNRWA, Emergency Appeal for the occupied Palestinian territory, 2021, available at: <https://www.unrwa.org/resources/emergency-appeals/occupied-palestinian-territory-emergency-appeal-2021>.
- UNRWA COVID-19 appeal and response, August – December 2020, available at: [https://www.unrwa.org/covid\\_19](https://www.unrwa.org/covid_19).
- For Information on **UNRWA’s Programme Budget** for the period 2020-2021, please see <https://www.unrwa.org/how-you-can-help/how-we-spend-funds/core-programme-budget>.
- For information on the **Agency’s financial situation and voluntary donations**, please see for instance:
  - UNRWA Press Release, ‘United States announces restoration of U.S. \$150 million to support Palestine refugees’, 7 April 2021, available at: <https://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/press-releases/united-states-announces-restoration-us-150-million-support-palestine>.
  - UNRWA Press Release, ‘UNRWA appeals for US\$1.5 billion to support Palestine refugees in 2021’, 11 February 2021, available at: <https://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/press-releases/unrwa-appeals-us15-billion-support-palestine-refugees-2021>.
  - UNRWA, Official Statement, ‘Statement of the Commissioner-General to the Advisory Commission on UNRWA Virtual meeting’, 23 November 2020, available at: <https://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/official-statements/statement-commissioner-general-advisory-commission-unrwa-virtual>.
  - UNRWA Press Release, ‘UNRWA Issues Emergency Call for Humanitarian Assistance Amid End-of-Year Shortfall; Salaries of 28,000 Staff at risk, Hopes to Avoid Suspension of Essential Services,’ 9 November 2020, available at: <https://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/press-releases/unrwa-issues-emergency-call-humanitarian-assistance-amid-end-year-shortfall>.
  - UNRWA, Official Statement, ‘Commissioner-General letter to staff on the urgency of UNRWA's financial situation’, 9 November 2020, available at: <https://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/official-statements/commissioner-general-letter-staff-urgency-unrwas-financial-situation>.

## Background Information

UNRWA is confronted with an increased demand for services resulting from a growth in the number of registered Palestine refugees, the extent of their vulnerability and their deepening poverty. UNRWA is funded almost entirely by voluntary contributions and financial support has been outpaced by the growth in needs. As a result, the UNRWA programme budget, which supports the delivery of core essential services, operates with a large shortfall. UNRWA encourages all Member States to work collectively to exert all possible efforts to fully fund the Agency’s programme budget. UNRWA emergency programmes and key projects, also operating with large shortfalls, are funded through separate funding portals.