

Gaza Strip: recent developments and humanitarian update since 31 May 2024

KEY OVERALL FIGURES

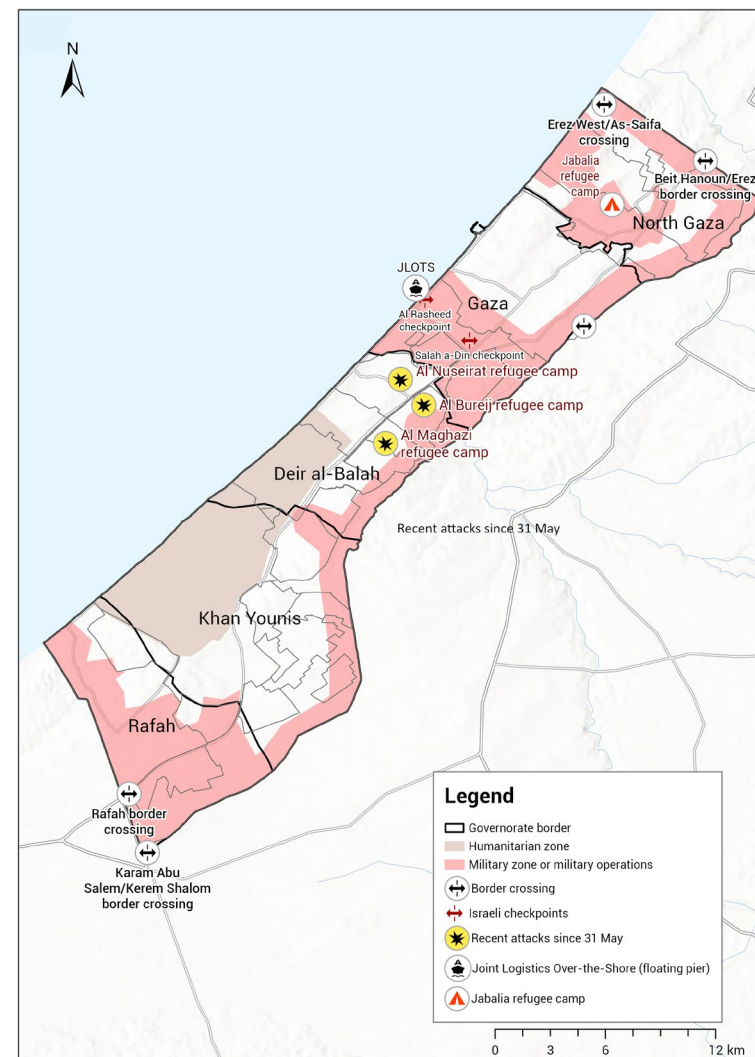
- By 10 June, the Gaza Health Ministry had recorded over **37,100 Palestinians killed and 84,700 injured** since 7 October 2023 (OCHA 10/06/2024). By 6 June 2024, over 10,000 people were reported still missing under rubble (WHO 10/06/2024).
- Until 9 June, there had been **1.7 million IDPs** (equivalent to 75% of the Gazan population) since 7 October 2023, with many **displaced multiple times** (UNRWA 10/06/2024).
- On 18 March, **1.1 million people** were projected to **face Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) acute food insecurity levels** until 15 July 2024 (IPC 18/03/2024).
- The food that people have access to is of the lowest nutritional value, with many only having access to rice (BBC 10/02/2024). **More than 96% of women and children ages 6–23 months are missing their basic nutrient requirements**, as the hostilities have significantly affected the availability of food, milk, and essential medical treatment (Global Nutrition Cluster 18/02/2024).
- Between 7 October and 13 June, **more than 17,000 separated and unaccompanied children** have been registered, and **over 19,000 children orphaned** (NRC 13/06/2024).

About this report

Aim: this report provides an update on key developments in the current situation in Gaza since 31 May 2024, highlighting recent developments in Deir al-Balah Governorate of central Gaza. This report follows the ACAPS briefing note Gaza: Escalating Hostilities and Deteriorating Humanitarian Situation in Rafah, published on 30 May 2024.

Methodology and limitations: this report is based on a secondary data review. The humanitarian response has been forced to relocate to Deir al-Balah (central Gaza) from Rafah following the re-displacement of people after the intensified hostilities and evacuation orders from the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) in May. Given infrastructure damage and destruction during IDF operations in central Gaza, information flow and assessment capacity remain constrained, hindering a holistic understanding of the humanitarian situation in the affected areas.

Map 1. Recent developments in Gaza since 31 May



Source: ACAPS using OCHA (09/06/2024).

RECENT KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN CENTRAL GAZA

Displacement of people from Rafah to central Gaza

From early May until 10 June, **IDF operations and evacuation orders in Rafah displaced more than one million people, with some sources reporting less than 100,000 IDPs remaining in Rafah** (ETC/WFP 10/06/2024 a; OCHA 10/06/2024; UNRWA 10/06/2024; NRC 13/06/2024). UNRWA has stated that by 31 May, all 36 of their shelters in Rafah were empty (WHO 10/06/2024).

Many of the displaced people have experienced multiple displacement since 7 October because of expanding IDF operations. The coastal road from Al-Mawasi to Central Gaza is congested as people are travelling to seek shelter in Khan Younis (NRC 13/06/2024).

Key IDF operations

On 8 June, an IDF operation comprising air, land, and sea attacks hit al-Bureij, al-Maghazi, and Al Nuseirat refugee camps in Deir al-Balah. By 9 June, the attacks had killed at least 274 Palestinian civilians and injured almost 700 (UN 09/06/2024; AJ 08/06/2024 a; CNN 09/06/2024). These attacks, among the worst in Gaza since October 2023, are part of a series of intensified IDF operations across the Gaza Strip since 26 May 2024 (AJ 08/06/2024 a). On 9 June, Palestinian civil defence crews were still recovering dead or wounded Palestinians from the rubble in Al Nuseirat refugee camp, with air strikes continuing in central Gaza (AJ 09/06/2024 a).

According to local sources, the IDF infiltrated Al Nuseirat refugee camp on 8 June using a humanitarian aid truck and a civilian vehicle (PRCS 10/06/2024). The Israeli military has denied this (AA 08/06/2024; MEE 08/06/2024; DN 10/06/2024). Other sources report that some Israeli special forces were disguised as displaced Palestinians (CNN 09/06/2024). According to a US official, a US hostage cell in Israel provided support to the IDF during the Al Nuseirat military operation (Axios 08/06/2024). Some sources also allege the use of the floating pier known as the Joint Logistics Over-the-Shore (JLOTS) to assist in the IDF operation, but the US Central Command has denied this (EMM 09/06/2024; MEE 09/06/2024). International humanitarian and customary law prohibit combatants from disguising themselves or otherwise pretending to be civilians or humanitarian workers when engaging with an adversary (PRCS 10/06/2024; ICRC accessed 13/06/2024).

On 8 June, following the attacks, the Israeli military announced the rescue of four hostages (AJ 08/06/2024 b). At the same time, however, the Qassam Brigades (Hamas' armed wing) announced that the raid killed three other hostages (AJ 09/06/2024 b; AP 10/06/2024).

On 6 June, an air raid on the UN-run al-Sardi school in Al Nuseirat refugee camp, where an estimated 6,000 displaced people were sheltering, killed 40 Palestinians (including 14 children) and injured at least 74 people (UN 09/06/2024; OCHA 07/06/2024). IDP attacks on schools serving as temporary IDP shelters continue, with UNWRA reporting at least 435 incidents between 7 October 2023 and 5 June 2024 (OCHA 10/06/2024).

Relocation of humanitarian response from Rafah, capacity, and constraints

Since 6 May, **the intensified hostilities and evacuation orders in Rafah have resulted in the relocation of humanitarian responders to Deir al-Balah and Khan Younis**, with most of the humanitarian offices in Rafah becoming non-operational (ETC/WFP 10/06/2024 a; WHO 10/06/2024; WFP 13/06/2024). However, **the humanitarian response in Rafah and central Gaza have been at a standstill** because of ongoing insecurity, lack of supplies, and challenges in coordination for humanitarian actors (NRC 13/06/2024; WFP 13/06/2024).

On 15 May, the US built JLOTS off the coast of Gaza city to facilitate the entry of humanitarian supplies into Gaza, but by 29 May, bad weather and rough seas had completely dismantled the structure. It was reinstalled on 7 June, **but humanitarian assistance delivery via the pier has been insufficient to replace aid entry and transportation by land** (CNN 29/05/2024; AJ 07/06/2024). Since the reinstallation, by 8 June, JLOTS had facilitated almost 500 metric tons of assistance to Gaza. A total of 1,573 metric tons of assistance have entered Gaza through the pier since it was built (Govt. USA 08/06/2024; CNN 08/06/2024). On 10 June, **WFP temporarily halted operations from JLOTS** after recent hostilities damaged two of its warehouses (Axios 10/06/2024).

Allegations of using humanitarian means as a disguise for military operations, which followed the news of the IDF operation in Al Nuseirat camp, **can affect people's trust and perception of humanitarian responders in Gaza**, challenging the humanitarian response and putting humanitarian aid workers at risk (PRCS 10/06/2024).

The continuous bombardment of Deir al-Balah, as at 9 June, had made it difficult for emergency responders to reach injured people, as well as recover dead bodies, on the roads or stuck under rubble after the attack on Nuseirat refugee camp (AJ 09/06/2024 a). **Al-Aqsa Hospital, the largest operational healthcare provider in Deir al-Balah, is operating at five times its capacity** with only one electricity generator (AJ 09/06/2024 a; OCHA 10/06/2024). Al Awda Hospital in Deir al-Balah and Nasser Medical Complex in Khan Younis are also, at limited capacities, responding to the health needs resulting from the Nuseirat camp attack (OCHA 10/06/2024). On 6 June, **only three partially functional hospitals** (including Al-Aqsa and Al Awda) **and one fully functional field hospital** (International Medical Corps (IMC)) **were available to respond** to the needs of those stuck in Deir al-Balah during the IDF operations

and newly displaced people from Rafah (WHO 10/06/2024). Lack of fuel, generators, and critical medicine, combined with overwhelmed healthcare staff and facilities, remains major challenges.

Between 31 May and 12 June, **safety concerns and the relocation of logistical support services from Rafah to Khan Younis suspended fuel deliveries into the Gaza Strip** (OCHA 10/06/2024; UNRWA accessed 12/06/2024).

The intense bombardment of Gaza city continues to affect communications infrastructure, challenging information access and the coordination of humanitarian personnel (ETC/WFP 10/06/2024 a). Currently, communications are intermittent, with some areas facing more challenges than others.

OTHER KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE GAZA STRIP SINCE 31 MAY

- **The IDF ground offensive continues across the Gaza Strip, as at 13 June**, including multiple air raids striking civilian housing in southern Gaza city and eastern Rafah between 6-8 June (UNRWA 10/06/2024).
- **In North Gaza, around 100,000 people had been displaced in May because of hostilities** (NRC 13/06/2024).
- On 2 June, the head of the municipal emergency committee for northern Gaza municipalities declared Beit Hanoun, Beit Lahya, and Jabalia, including Jabalia refugee camp, as disaster zones because of the scale of death and destruction following IDF's withdrawal on 31 May (ETC/WFP 10/06/2024 a; BBC 03/06/2024). Multiple inter-agency assessments are underway to identify sites for humanitarian response in northern Gaza. Between 1-6 June, only 8 of the 17 coordinated humanitarian assistance missions to northern Gaza were successful. Three were denied access by Israeli authorities, four were impeded by Israeli authorities, and two were cancelled because of operational or security reasons (UNRWA 10/06/2024).
- Al-Awda, Kamal Adwan, and Indonesian Hospitals in **northern Gaza** have become partially accessible and remain partially functional (WHO 10/06/2024).

Humanitarian response capacity and constraints

- **The re-displacement of people from Rafah to the north aggravates communication challenges, as infrastructure is significantly damaged or destroyed in the north, following weeks of IDF operations.** On 10 June, the WFP-led Emergency Telecommunications Cluster announced requiring USD 1.8 million to address critical shared communications needs in Gaza, including the facilitation and coordination of humanitarian efforts until December 2024 (ETC/WFP 10/06/2024 b).
- **Jabalia town in northern Gaza, which has the largest refugee camp in the enclave, remains a focal point for the IDF's attempt to prevent Hamas from re-establishing military bases in northern Gaza** (ACLEDD 10/06/2024). This means that the risk of insecurity, combined with bureaucratic impediments, will likely continue affecting humanitarian access and operational capacity in the area. On 12 June, it remained unclear how many displaced people were returning to northern Gaza; in April, before the IDF withdrawal, thousands were already reported to have been attempting to return (AJ 15/04/2024). Prior to the 7 October 2023 hostilities, 110,000 people were registered to be living in Jabalia town. 60,000 people have fled from Jabalia refugee camp after the IDF began its operation targeting the camp on 12 May (BBC 03/06/2024).
- By 7 June, there were no functional hospitals in **Rafah**, and only the ICRC field hospital remained fully functional, challenging healthcare access for the 90,000 people reported to remain in Rafah (WHO 10/06/2024). Reasons for people remaining are unclear but it may be a result of the cost of transport being six times higher, mobility challenges because of health issues, or because they were residents of Rafah prior to 7 October.
- Between 31 May and 11 June, only 308 humanitarian trucks entered Gaza through the **Karam Abu Salem/Kerem Shalom Crossing** over five days (UNRWA accessed 11/06/2024). At the same time, the IDF ground offensive in Rafah is hindering humanitarian responders from moving the humanitarian supplies entering Gaza to affected people in all areas across the Gaza Strip (UNRWA 10/06/2024; WFP 13/06/2024). On 12 May, the **Erez West/As-Siafa crossing** between northern Gaza and Israel was opened for the transportation of pre-approved goods; by 23 May, 604 trucks had passed this crossing (OCHA 09/06/2024; Reuters 24/05/2024). By 12 June, publicly available information on daily truck entries through Erez West/As-Siafa crossing was no longer available. An estimated 500-600 trucks need to enter Gaza daily to meet the current needs of the population (AJ 26/05/2024).