

PALESTINE (GAZA) – SECURITY SITUATION – ISRAELI DISCRIMINATION

FROM: Vluchtelingenwerk Vlaanderen  
TO:

Je recherche des informations car Je dois en effet fournir pour un client des informations au CCE sur:  
La Situation sécuritaire et humanitaire prévalant actuellement dans la Bande de Gaza et également la question du traitement discriminatoire et oppressif qui est réservé par l'état israélien, selon certaines organisations non gouvernementales, à la population de ce *territoire*..

16 January 2023, Protection of Civilians Report 20 December – 9 January 2023, OCHA, available at <https://www.ochaopt.org/poc/20-december-2022-9-january-2023> (Accessed 16/01/2023)

In the Gaza Strip, on at least 50 occasions, Israeli forces opened warning fire near Israel's perimeter fence or off the coast, presumably to enforce access restrictions; a house sustained minor damage, and no one was injured. On two occasions, Israeli military bulldozers leveled lands inside Gaza, near the perimeter fence, east of Gaza city and east of Khan Younis. In a separate incident, Israeli forces arrested a Palestinian man from Gaza as he exited through Erez crossing. On 3 January, one rocket was reportedly launched from the Gaza Strip, landing near the perimeter fence inside the enclave, with no injuries or damages reported.

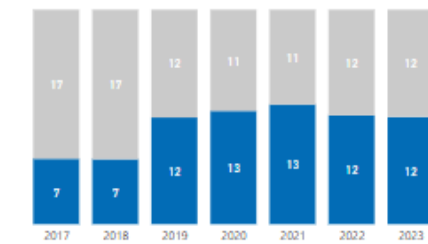
Electricity in the Gaza Strip, OCHA, available at <https://www.ochaopt.org/page/gaza-strip-electricity-supply> (Accessed 16/01/2023)

For the past decade, the Gaza Strip has suffered from a chronic electricity deficit, which undermined already fragile living conditions. The situation has further deteriorated since April 2017 in the context of disputes between the de facto authorities in Gaza and the West Bank-based Palestinian Authority. The ongoing power shortage has severely affected the availability of essential services, particularly health, water and sanitation services, and undermined Gaza's fragile economy, particularly the manufacturing and agriculture sectors.

The data presented in the following charts is provided to OCHA on a daily basis by the Gaza Electricity Distribution Company (GEDCO), the official body in charge of electricity supply in the Gaza Strip. The variation in electricity demand per day is estimated based on the temperatures recorded on that day.

### Availability of electricity (average hours per day)

● Power on ● Power off



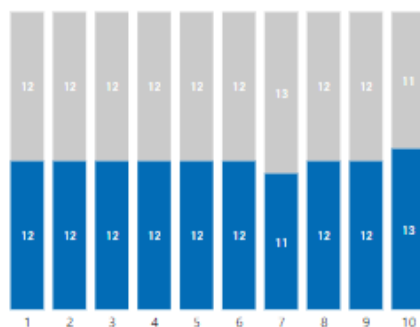
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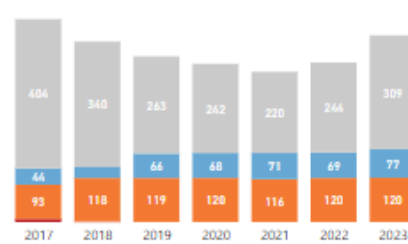
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Jan



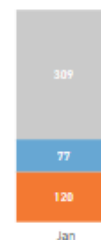
### Electricity supply vs. demand (average megawatts per day)

● Egyptian lines ● Israeli lines ● Gaza Power Plant ● Gap



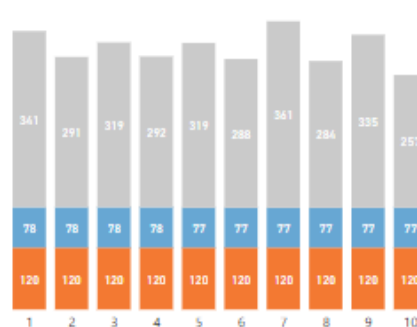
Select year

2023



Select month

Jan



Israel and Palestine events of 2022, Human Rights Watch, available at <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2023/country-chapters/israel/palestine> (Accessed 16/01/2023)

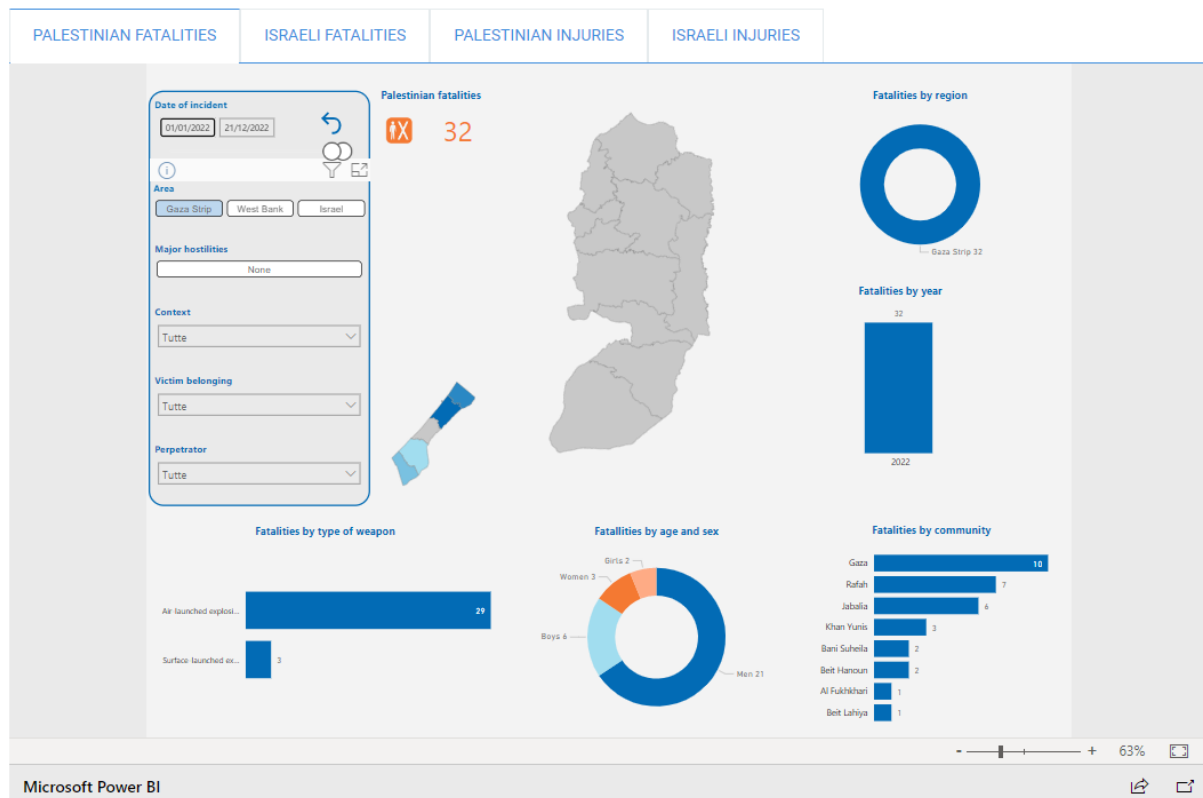
During three days of hostilities in August, Israeli forces launched scores of airstrikes, dropping explosive weapons with wide area effects in the densely populated Gaza, while the armed group Palestinian Islamic Jihad indiscriminately fired hundreds of rockets toward Israeli population centers. According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), 49 Palestinians, including 17 children, were killed. Three hundred and sixty Palestinians and seventy Israelis were also injured during the escalation.

The August hostilities took place amid Israel's 15-year-long sweeping restrictions on the movement of people and goods in Gaza. Israel's closure policy, exacerbated by Egyptian restrictions on its border with Gaza, has deprived the more than 2 million Palestinians of Gaza, with rare exceptions, of their right to freedom of movement and opportunities to better their lives, severely limited their access to electricity, health care, and water, and devastated the economy. About 80 percent of Gaza's 2.1

million residents rely on humanitarian aid, according to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

Palestinian civil society also faced restrictions from the Fatah-dominated Palestinian Authority (PA) in the parts of the West Bank where it manages affairs and Hamas authorities in Gaza. The Palestinian statutory watchdog, the Independent Commission for Human Rights (ICHR), received 120 complaints of arbitrary arrests against the PA and 87 against Hamas; 106 complaints of torture and ill-treatment against the PA and 113 against Hamas; and 28 complaints against the PA for detention without trial or charge pursuant to orders from a regional governor between January and September 2022.

Data on casualties, OCHA, available at <https://www.ochaopt.org/data/casualties> (Accessed 16/01/2023)



29 December 2022, Israeli Human Rights Violations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (Weekly Update 22-28 December 2022), Palestinian Centre for Human Rights, available at <https://pchrgaza.org/en/israeli-human-rights-violations-in-the-occupied-palestinian-territory-weekly-update-22-28-december-2022/> (Accessed 12/01/2023)

In the Gaza Strip, 9 shootings were reported on agricultural lands in eastern Khan Yuni. In one of those shootings, a bullet penetrated a house wall, but no casualties were reported.

So far in 2022, IOF attacks killed 186 Palestinians, including 124 civilians: 37 children, 8 women, 2 Palestinians killed by Israeli settlers and the rest were activists; 20 of them were assassinated. Also, hundreds of Palestinians, including women and children, were wounded in IOF's attacks in the Gaza Strip and West Bank. Moreover, 6 Palestinian detainees, including a woman, died in the Israeli prisons.

In the Gaza Strip, on 22 December 2022, the Palestinian General Authority for Civil Affairs (GACA) was informed that a Palestinian, from Khan Yunis, was arrested while traveling via Beit Hanoun (Erez) crossing a day before, despite having a businessman permit.

So far in 2022, IOF conducted 8772 incursions into the West Bank, including occupied East Jerusalem, during which 4872 Palestinians were arrested, including 490 children and 52 women. IOF also conducted 35 limited incursions into eastern Gaza Strip and arrested 106 Palestinians, including 64 fishermen, 32 infiltrators, and 10 travelers via Beit Hanoun "Erez" Crossing.

22 December 2022, Israeli Human Rights Violations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (Weekly Update 15-21 December 2022), Palestinian Centre for Human Rights, available at <https://pchrgaza.org/en/israeli-human-rights-violations-in-the-occupied-palestinian-territory-weekly-update-15-21-december-2022/> (Accessed 16/01/2023)

**In the Gaza Strip**, 4 IOF shootings were reported on agricultural lands in eastern Gaza Strip, and shootings were reported on fishing boats off the western Gaza shores.

So far in 2022, IOF attacks killed 185 Palestinians, including 123 civilians: 37 children, 8 women, 2 Palestinians killed by Israeli settlers and the rest were activists; 20 of them were assassinated in IOF's attacks in the Gaza Strip and West Bank. Moreover, 6 Palestinian detainees, including a woman, died in the Israeli prisons.

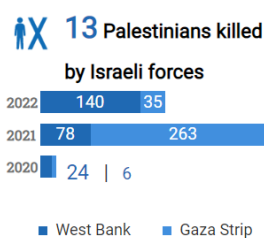
So far in 2022, IOF conducted 8,609 incursions into the West Bank, including occupied East Jerusalem, during which 4,781 Palestinians were arrested, including 480 children and 52 women. IOF also conducted 35 limited incursions into eastern Gaza Strip and arrested 105 Palestinians, including 64 fishermen, 32 infiltrators, and 9 travelers via Beit Hanoun "Erez" Crossing.

22 December 2022, Protection of Civilians Report 6 December – 19 December 2022, OCHA, available at <https://www.ochaopt.org/poc/6-19-december-2022> (Accessed 16/01/2023)

In the Gaza Strip, on at least 39 occasions, Israeli forces opened warning fire near Israel's perimeter fence or off the coast, presumably to enforce access restrictions with no injuries or damages reported. On three occasions, Israeli military bulldozers leveled lands inside Gaza, near the perimeter fence east of Gaza and east of Rafah.

16 December 2022, Protection of Civilians Report 22 November – 5 December 2022, OCHA, available at <https://www.ochaopt.org/poc/22-november-5-december-2022> (Accessed 16/01/2023)

In the Gaza Strip, on at least 33 occasions, Israeli forces opened warning fire near Israel's perimeter fence or off the coast, presumably to enforce access restrictions. As a result, three Palestinian fishers were injured, six were arrested, and two fishing boats were confiscated. Separately, on 3 December, one Palestinian man was arrested by Israeli forces while attempting to enter Israel without authorization through the perimeter fence. In addition, on 3 December, one rocket was fired from Gaza that landed in an open field in southern Israel; no injuries or damage were reported. Overnight, Israeli forces carried out air strikes on Gaza; no injuries were reported.



25 November 2022, Protection of Civilians Report 8 November – 21 November 2022, OCHA, available at <https://www.ochaopt.org/poc/8-21-november-2022> (Accessed 16/01/2023)

In the Gaza Strip, on 17 November, 21 Palestinians from the same extended family, including 11 children, were killed when a fire broke out in a residential building in Jabalia refugee camp in northern Gaza. Unsafe practices contributed to the gravity of the incident, according to an investigation by the de-facto authorities. The limited operational capacity of the Palestinian Civil Defense, due to disagreements with the PA and the Israeli-imposed ban on essential materials, also contributed to the large number of deaths.

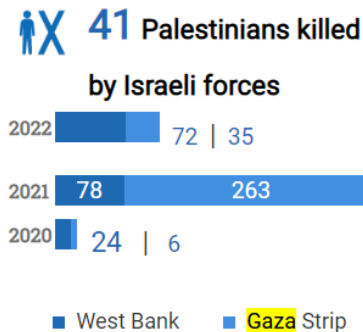
In the Gaza Strip, on at least 23 occasions, Israeli forces opened fire near Israel's perimeter fence or off the coast, presumably to enforce access restrictions in areas within Gaza: no casualties were reported. On at least two occasions, Israeli military bulldozers leveled land 50 meters inside Gaza, near the perimeter fence east of Deir al-Balah.

19 August 2022, Protection of Civilians Report 2-15 August 2022, OCHA, available at <https://www.ochaopt.org/poc/2-15-august-2022> (Accessed 16/01/2023)

Details of the 5-7 August escalation of hostilities in Gaza and Israel are available in Flash Update #1 and #2. During the escalation, 49 Palestinians were killed in the Gaza Strip, of whom at least 22 were civilians, including 17 children and four women, according to OHCHR; 360 others were injured, including 151 children, 58 women, according to the local Ministry of Health. According to the Israeli authorities, a total of 70 Israelis were injured. Magen David Adom reported that 47 Israelis were evacuated by the organization to hospitals. Three people were injured from shrapnel, 31 people were injured while running to shelters, and 13 from shock.

On 2 August, Israeli forces shot and killed a 17-year-old Palestinian boy, claimed by Islamic Jihad (PIJ) to be an affiliate, and injured two in a raid on Jenin refugee camp where they arrested two Palestinian men, including a senior PIJ operative. Over the course of the operation, an exchange of fire with armed Palestinians was reported, and Israeli forces shot live ammunition at residents who threw stones and Molotov cocktails. Later that day, the Israeli authorities imposed a complete closure on their border with Gaza, preventing the movement of people and essential commodities in and out, citing security

concerns. On 5 August, Israeli forces conducted a targeted airstrike, killing a senior PIJ operative in Gaza. Israeli airstrikes and the indiscriminate rocket fire into Israel by armed Palestinian groups ensued and continued until a ceasefire came into effect at 23:30 on 7 August.



8 August 2022, Where was Hamas during Israel's latest bombardment of Gaza?, Middle East Monitor, available at <https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20220808-where-was-hamas-during-israels-latest-bombardment-of-gaza/> (Accessed 17/01/2023)

Israel launched a wide-scale offensive against the Palestinians in the besieged Gaza Strip on Friday afternoon. Its stated target was senior Islamic Jihad commander Tayseer Al-Jaabari in his apartment in a high-rise residential building in Al-Remal area of Gaza City. He was killed along with several civilians, including five-year-old Alaa Qaddoum and her father, who lived in the apartment next to Al-Jaabari's. The Israeli occupation authorities claimed that they had carried out a pre-emptive strike to thwart attacks on Israel planned by Al-Jaabari.

The Israeli aggression prompted a response from Islamic Jihad, which fired rockets towards Israeli settlements and cities near the Gaza Strip. Smaller Palestinian factions also fired rockets towards the occupation state, but the main and largest Palestinian resistance movement, Hamas, did not claim to have fired anything, despite the fact that the Israeli bombardment was intense and deadly.

Why did Hamas take this position and where it was during the latest Israeli offensive? When Israeli officials first claimed that Islamic Jihad was planning attacks, they said that they would blame Hamas, which runs the de facto government in the Gaza Strip, for rockets fired from the coastal enclave. The Israelis then changed their position and said that they had nothing to do with Hamas.

This surprising change suggests that the Israeli bombing campaign had less to do with security and more to do with the upcoming General Election. Israeli Prime Minister Yair Lapid claimed that Islamic Jihad planned to carry out attacks in retaliation for last week's detention of its senior figure in Jenin, Bassam Al-Saadi. Ministers and officials echoed his claim, but renowned Israeli journalist Gideon Levy told *Al Jazeera* that he suspected that it was all to do with the election.

"Any prime minister needs to prove himself, especially if he comes from the centre-left in Israel," he explained. "And we have a new prime minister, and he wants to show that he's macho like all the former prime ministers. All those are very poor excuses to go for another round in Gaza."

According to Israeli journalist Meron Rapoport, "One possibility is that Lapid wants to establish his position as a 'strong' prime minister, less than three months before the General Election, while the [opposition] Benjamin Netanyahu bloc is gaining strength in the polls."

One Palestinian member of the Israeli parliament, Sami Abu Shehadeh, told *Middle East Eye*: "Israel's latest aggression in Gaza shows the will of Lapid and Gantz and their coalition to do anything to stay in power, including the killing of a five-year-old girl. This new war crime is part of an immoral electoral campaign to show that they can be as criminal as Benjamin Netanyahu."

This was one of the reasons why Hamas did not respond to this round of Israeli violence. It recognized the election factor and believed that its involvement would extend the offensive. The movement opted to deny any electoral leverage to Lapid at the expense of Palestinian blood.

Moreover, Hamas knew that Israel was well prepared for the offensive, having covered all avenues through which the Palestinian resistance could have made any gains. It mobilized 25,000 reservists, entrenched tanks and artillery so that they would not be targeted easily by the Palestinian resistance groups, and put the Israeli settler community near the nominal border with Gaza in secure locations. After weighing up the situation from a military perspective, Hamas decided that it would not gain anything from being involved.

6 August 2022, Israel-Palestine latest updates: 3 children killed in Gaza blast, Aljazeera, available at <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/liveblog/2022/8/6/updates-19-pij-members-arrested-as-israel-continues-gaza-raids> (Accessed 16/01/2023)

Mohammed Abu Salameh, the director of Shifa, Gaza City's main hospital, said "medics are facing "acute shortages of medical supplies" after hundreds of Palestinians were wounded in Israel's attack.

Israel stopped the planned transport of fuel into Gaza shortly before it struck on Friday, crippling the territory's lone power plant, reducing electricity to a few hours per day, and drawing warnings from health officials that hospitals would be severely impacted within days. The United Nations humanitarian chief for the occupied Palestinian territories, Lynn Hastings, urged the warring sides to allow "fuel, food, and medical supplies" to be delivered to Gaza amid the worsening crisis.

6 August 2022, Statement by the Humanitarian Coordinator in the occupied Palestinian territory, Lynn Hastings, on the escalation of violence in Gaza and Israel, available at <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/statement-humanitarian-coordinator-occupied-palestinian-territory-lynn-hastings-escalation-violence-gaza-and> (Accessed 16/01/2023)

I am gravely concerned by the ongoing and serious escalation of violence in and around Gaza between Palestinian militants and Israel which so far has claimed the lives of 13 Palestinians by Israeli airstrikes, including a 5-year-old child and one woman. Reports indicate that more than 100 Palestinians have been injured and 7 Israelis injured. Residential areas in both Gaza and Israel have been hit and houses damaged; 31 families in Gaza have already been left homeless.

The humanitarian situation in Gaza is already dire and can only worsen with this most recent escalation. The hostilities must stop to avoid more deaths and injuries of civilians in Gaza and Israel. The principles of international humanitarian law including those of distinction, precaution and proportionality must be respected by all parties.

Fuel for the Gaza Power Plant is due to run out today; electricity has already been cut. The continued operation of basic service facilities such as hospitals, schools, warehouses, and designated shelters for internally displaced persons is essential and now at risk. Movement and access of humanitarian personnel, for critical medical cases, and for essential goods, including food and fuel into Gaza, must not be impeded so that humanitarian needs can be met.

The Israeli authorities and Palestinian armed groups must immediately allow the United Nations and our humanitarian partners to bring in fuel, food, and medical supplies and to deploy humanitarian personnel in accordance with international principles; this includes specifically ensuring access and safety through key border crossings. We stand ready to work with all sides to ensure humanitarian needs are met.

I reiterate the United Nations Special Coordinator's appeal on all sides for an immediate de-escalation and halt to the violence, to avoid destructive ramifications, particularly for civilians.

5 August 2022, Israel hits Gaza with air attacks as tensions escalate, Aljazeera, available at <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/8/5/israel-hits-gaza-with-air-strikes-as-tensions-escalate> (Accessed 16/01/2023)

Israel attacked the besieged Gaza Strip with warplanes on Friday, killing at least 10 people including a commander of the Islamic Jihad group and a young girl. The health ministry in Gaza said at least 10 people were killed including al-Jabari and a five-year-old girl. At least 55 people were wounded and being treated at hospitals as a result of the Israeli raids.

The five-year-old girl, Alaa Qaddoum, was killed in a missile attack along with her father while they rode a motorcycle to go shopping for groceries.

30 June 2022, Fearing a collapse: Palestinian refugees and UNRWA's worsening financial crisis, MEI, available at <https://www.mei.edu/publications/fearing-collapse-palestinian-refugees-and-unrwas-worsening-financial-crisis> (Accessed 17/01/2023)

In the past, UNRWA provided a range of services to Palestinian refugees. This included in-kind food supplies, educational materials, grants for higher education, infrastructure improvements, and microfinance credits. UNRWA also contributed to the costs of health care expenses that its facilities did not provide. But the agency's funding has been stressed for decades and its services have suffered as a result. Today, UNRWA is a shell of its former self.

This is the product of a deliberate campaign by political opponents in Israel and the United States. Former Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu repeatedly targeted UNRWA and sought to change how refugees were defined in order to reduce the agency's funding. During the Obama administration, Netanyahu relied on Republican allies in the U.S. Congress. His efforts were bolstered by the Trump White House, which cut all U.S. funding to UNRWA in 2018.

Although U.S. support was restored by the Biden administration in 2021, UNRWA continues to face a large budget deficit and political pressure. Fears are now growing that UNRWA may be ultimately dismantled. Were that to happen, it would dramatically worsen an already dire situation, leaving Palestinian refugees bereft of basic services and lacking protection of their fundamental human rights, and contributing to humanitarian crises across the region.



Talal A. is a Palestinian refugee who lives in Gaza's Jabalia camp with four children. The camp is overcrowded, has poor infrastructure and dilapidated buildings, and lacks a sustainable electricity network. Like the rest of Gaza, Jabalia suffers from constant shortages of power and all kinds of necessities. Meanwhile, UNRWA lacks the funding needed to build new schools.

In June 2022, on the last day of school, UNRWA sent Talal's children a guide to creating a Microsoft Teams account on its Digital Learning Platform. However, the students were not provided with an electronic device with which to access the platform. Given the extremely high poverty and unemployment rates in Gaza, only a tiny fraction of Palestinian refugees can afford a tablet or computer for lessons or in-home internet access. Moreover, many also lack power, as Gaza's chronic shortages of electricity mean generators have become a necessity.

The combination of continuing political pressure and a worsening financial crisis has made it increasingly difficult for UNRWA to perform its mission. Ms. Huda Samra, a senior media and communication advisor at UNRWA, explains that the agency "was set up at the U.N. General Assembly and its mandate can only be changed by the General Assembly." She adds that, "UNRWA's mandate has been renewed by member states at the General Assembly almost unanimously in recent years and the same is expected in 2022." But the member states have also stood by as the organization has faced chronic underfunding. Indeed, UNRWA recently announced that it has received less than 40% of the \$817 million needed for critical services this year.

14 June 2022, Opening statement by UNRWA commissioner-general Philippe Lazzarini to the advisory commission on UNRWA, June 2022, UNRWA, available at <https://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/official-statements/opening-statement-unrwa-commissioner-general-philippe-lazzarini> (Accessed 17/01/2023)

This is an extremely challenging period for UNRWA.

It is an extremely distressing period for Palestine refugees, one of the most vulnerable communities in this region.

Palestine refugees, who UNRWA is mandated to protect and assist, face a huge uncertainty.

Since June 2020, I have repeatedly informed this forum that the Agency's funding model is unsustainable.

Since June 2020, I repeatedly cautioned this forum that our financial challenges could lead to the slow erosion of the quality of our services or to their interruption.

Since that time, I also informed the Advisory Commission that it could not be the sole responsibility of the Commissioner-General to open or not schools for more than half a million girls and boys.

The UNRWA mandate is a collective responsibility.

Solidarity with Palestine refugees is clearly manifested at the United Nations General Assembly voting sessions on the mandate of UNRWA.

Under this mandate, Palestine refugees have the right to a dignified life.

They also have the right to being constantly and continuously remembered as a community that awaits a fair and lasting solution to its plight.

As Commissioner-General, I am responsible and accountable for enacting and implementing the mandate that UNRWA receives.

**But today, the Agency faces the most threatening financial situation of its recent history.**

This financial crisis does not happen in a vacuum: it happens amidst global attention shifting elsewhere, and general fatigue from what is seen by some as an irritatingly long and unresolved conflict.

It may be irritatingly long at the international political level, but for Palestinians it is their daily lives, their past and their future that is at stake.

Meanwhile, UNRWA, the only entity that provides a sense of normality and safety to Palestine refugees is threatened with paralysis.

It is hard to believe that the lack of sufficient resources for UNRWA can only be the outcome of financial constraint.

The immense impact of our services on the fulfillment of human rights and of the Sustainable Development Goals are visible in every Palestine refugee household.

External credible validators like the World Bank or MOPAN assert that the UNRWA education and health programs are great value for money.

The impact of predictable services on the safety and security of the refugees and on regional stability should suffice to convince every member state to commit funding to UNRWA in line with the resolutions they adopt.

**But shifting geopolitical priorities, new regional dynamics, the emergence of new humanitarian crises and donor fatigue, have all pushed the Israeli-Palestinian conflict down the list of priorities in many donor countries.**

**Coordinated campaigns to delegitimize UNRWA with a view to erode the rights of Palestine refugees are increasing in frequency and aggressivity.** Today when I visit donor capitals, I spend most of my time meeting Parliamentarians to address misconceptions about UNRWA.

UNRWA has also increasingly been exposed to domestic politics in some of its traditional donor countries, where the outcome of national elections determines the countries' continued support to the Agency.

**Palestine refugees are acutely aware of these dynamics and very anxious about their impact.**

In the absence of a political horizon, they perceive UNRWA as the last standing pillar of the commitment of the international community to their right to a dignified life and their right to a just and lasting solution to their plight.

**In the last few years, and despite immense outreach and fundraising efforts, the resources available to UNRWA have stagnated. Meanwhile the needs of Palestine refugees and cost of operations kept increasing.**

**Every year, the Agency is forced to operate with a funding gap of around US\$ 100m.**

I would also like to reiterate our gratitude to Host countries who over seven decades have hosted Palestine refugees.

Today, after 10 years of underfunding of its programme budget, UNRWA is at a point where it cannot stretch its resources to cover all the needs anymore.

The Agency's ability and internal tools to manage this chronic underfunding are now exhausted.

We have depleted our reserves.

We have not increased our budget for the last 3 years despite the soaring needs in the refugee community, despite a deterioration of economic conditions in host countries, and despite sharp increases in the prices of food and fuel.

Last month, UNRWA had to resort to a loan from CERF to pay teachers, doctors, sanitation workers and social workers. We needed a loan already so early in the year!

June 2022, The Gaza Strip the humanitarian of 15 years of blockade – June 2022, Unicef, available at <https://www.unicef.org/mena/documents/gaza-strip-humanitarian-impact-15-years-blockade-june-2022> (Accessed 17/01/2023)

So far in 2022, the Israeli authorities have approved only 64% of patients' requests to exit Gaza mainly for specialized treatment in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, by the time of the scheduled medical appointment. In previous years, patients have died while awaiting a response to their application.

The volume of truckloads entering Gaza in the first five months of 2022, around 8,000 per month, was about 30% below the monthly average for the first half of 2007, before the blockade. Since then, the population has grown by more than 50%.

Israeli forces have largely restricted access to areas within 300 metres of the Gaza side of the perimeter fence with Israel; areas several hundred metres beyond are deemed not safe, preventing, or discouraging, agricultural activities.

Israeli forces restrict access off the Gaza coast, currently only allowing fishermen to access 50% of the fishing waters allocated for this purpose under the Oslo Accords.

1.3 million out of 2.1 million Palestinians in Gaza (62%) require food assistance.

At its current operating capacity, the Gaza Power Plant can only produce up to 80 megawatts (MW), supplemented by 120 MW purchased from Israel, meeting about 50% of the electricity demand in Gaza (400-450MW). In 2021, rolling power cuts averaged 11 hours per day.

78% of piped water in Gaza is unfit for human consumption.

15 May 2022, Dr. Ola Awad reviews the conditions of the Palestinian people via statistical figures and findings, on the 74<sup>th</sup> Annual commemoration of the Palestinian Nakba, PCBS, available at <https://www.pcbs.gov.ps/post.aspx?lang=en&ItemID=4236> (Accessed 17/01/2023)

A Bitter Reality for Water in Palestine, 20% of Available Water in Palestine Purchased from Israeli Water Company "Mekorot".

With scarce water and Israeli restrictions on access to resources, Palestinians are forced to purchase water from the Israeli water company "Mekorot". In 2020, they purchased 90.3 MCM, which represented 20% of the water available in Palestine (448.4 MCM). Additionally, 53.3 MCM of the

water were produced from the Palestinian springs while 299.1 MCM are pumped from groundwater wells and 5.7 MCM desalinated drinking water, representing 1% of the available water.

As for water available to Palestinians that is unsuitable for human use due to the quantities of polluted water in Gaza Strip, it reached 201.8 MCM, whereas the quantities of water suitable for domestic use available to the Palestinians are only 246.6 MCM, including purchased and desalinated water.

79% of the Available Water is from Groundwater

Data showed that the percentage of the exploitation of surface and groundwater from available water during 2020 was high with an average of 79%. It should be noted that Palestinians have been denied, by the Israeli occupation, to access and extract water from the Jordan River since 1967, which is estimated of about 250 MCM. On the other hand, the quantity of water pumped from the Palestinian wells in the West Bank in 2020 was 108.6 MCM from Eastern Aquifer, Western Aquifer and North-Eastern Aquifer.

The amount of water extracted from the coastal aquifer was 190.5 million cubic meters (MCM) in Gaza Strip in 2020. However, this quantity is obtained via unsafe pumping that jeopardizes the sustainability of the source, as the basin sustainable yield should not exceed 50-60 MCM a year, where the groundwater level in the coastal aquifer reached 19 meters below sea level leading to the depletion of groundwater reserves, this led 97% of the water pumped from the coastal aquifer in Gaza Strip does not meet the water quality standards of the World Health Organization.

#### DISCLAIMER:

*This answer was prepared after extensive research of public domain and other documents. It does not pretend in any way to be conclusive about the correctness of an individual asylum application. All documents found have been included in the answer.*

*References to publicly accessible websites are only given for the information of the person asking the question. Vluchtelingenwerk Vlaanderen does not give any guarantee nor does it accept any liability with regard to the content of such sites. Consequently, Vluchtelingenwerk Vlaanderen cannot in any way guarantee the accuracy or completeness of the information on these sites.*