

# Israel-Gaza Conflict

## Situation Report #1

October 16, 2023

### Situation Update

On Saturday, October 7, armed Hamas militants fired a deadly barrage of rockets from Gaza and carried out coordinated attacks inside Israel that left more than 1,400 people dead, the majority of whom were civilians, escalating the long-running conflict.

Since then, Israel declared war on Hamas and has launched airstrikes into Gaza. Over 1 million people in northern Gaza have been told to evacuate south of Wadi Gaza ahead of potential military action to come. Hamas has continued to fire rockets into Israel, including into Tel Aviv, causing injuries. The continued attacks have also displaced many Israeli communities around Gaza.

As of October 16, at least 1,400 people in Israel and 2,700 people in Gaza have been killed. An additional 3,500 people in Israel and 9,600 people in Gaza have been injured.

Project HOPE staff in Jerusalem have been in contact with several hospitals in southern Israel, including Barzilai Medical Center and Shamir Medical Center, which have expressed an urgent need for critical medical supplies and equipment. Barzilai Medical Center sustained significant damage from the Hamas attacks, including the destruction of the Department of Gynecology and an operating room.

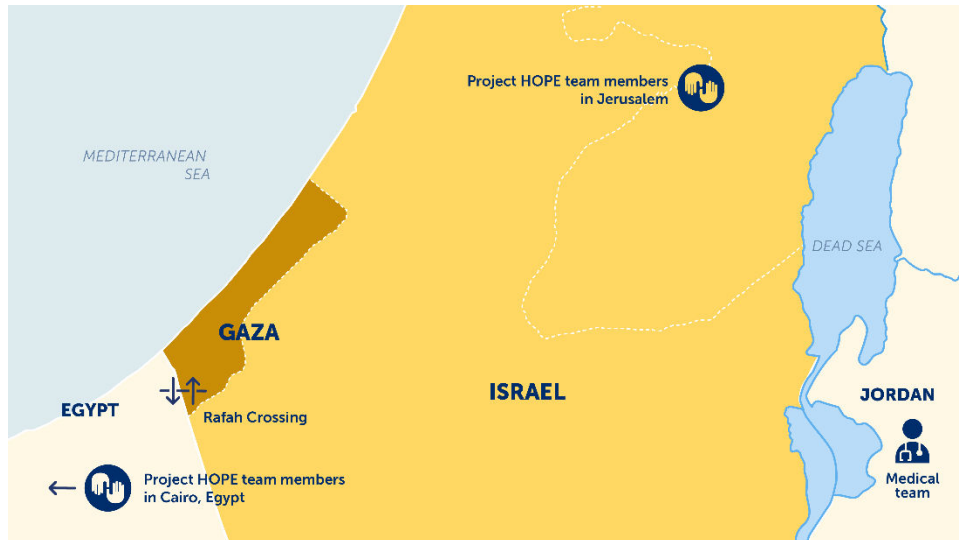
In Gaza, airstrikes have continued without pause. Since the October 7 attacks, Israel has cut off Gaza's supply of electricity, food, water, and gas, creating a humanitarian crisis that is quickly devolving into a catastrophe for civilians in Gaza. On October 15, Israel announced that it had restored water access to southern Gaza, though aid workers have said that there continues to be no running water for the vast majority of civilians. United Nations shelters are running out of water and civilians are reporting that the only water flowing from pumps is contaminated, causing families to ration clean drinking water or rely on brackish water from dirty wells or the sea, increasing the threat of dehydration and water-borne diseases. Without water, electricity, and fuel, hospitals and health facilities in northern Gaza will be unable to function. The World Health Organization is also reporting that despite this, more than 35,000 people are sheltering inside and

### Quick Facts

- Since the October 7 Hamas attacks, over 4,000 people have died in the conflict, the majority of whom are civilians.
- More than 1 million people in Gaza have been displaced by the conflict.
- The Rafah Crossing on the Egypt-Gaza border has remained closed since the beginning of the conflict, preventing border crossings of any kind and restricting humanitarian access.
- Health workers and civilians in and near the conflict need medicines, medical equipment, fuel, water, shelter, and other lifesaving supplies.

around Gaza's largest hospitals. Despite evacuation orders, many health workers in northern Gaza have chosen to stay and treat injured and sick Palestinians.

Since October 7, no one has been able to leave or enter Gaza through the Rafah Crossing, the only entry and exit point between Egypt and Gaza, including humanitarian aid convoys. Countries and humanitarian agencies have shipped humanitarian aid to Egypt in anticipation of future access into Gaza. No timeline for humanitarian access has been given at this time, despite mounting pressure from the international community.



Map of Project HOPE staff and local partners in Israel, Egypt, and Jordan.

On the Lebanon-Israel border, Hezbollah has been shelling Israeli Defense Forces in the disputed Shebaa Farms, and Israel retaliated by shelling Hezbollah locations in southern Lebanon. A Reuters journalist was killed by Israeli fire. Project HOPE is in discussion with partners to respond if the situation deteriorates. Tensions have also increased in the West Bank, where 56 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli forces, including 15 children.

## Project HOPE's Response

As the Israel-Gaza conflict enters its second week with civilian deaths mounting, Project HOPE has deployed emergency response personnel to the region to address urgent needs in Israel and Egypt. The staff are also coordinating with local authorities, UN agencies, and civil society to coordinate the delivery of aid for both Israel and Gaza.

In Israel, Project HOPE is working to support hospitals near the southern border by providing urgently needed medical equipment and supplies, and to repair damaged medical structures. The team is coordinating with local NGOs to identify gaps in primary health care and mental health and psychosocial support services across the affected areas, including for displaced communities. Project HOPE is also coordinating with local government officials to identify further needs across the health and water, sanitation, and hygiene sectors.

Project HOPE's staff in Cairo, Egypt are coordinating with UN agencies and the Egyptian Red Crescent Society to preposition medical and relief supplies to provide immediate humanitarian assistance once access is permitted through the Rafah Crossing. Project HOPE is prepositioning multiple shipments of medical supplies and pharmaceuticals, including two World Health Organization Interagency Emergency Health Kits (IEHKs), in addition to hygiene and dignity kits.

Additionally, Project HOPE's partner in Jordan, the Jordanian Health Aid Society (JHASi), is on standby to deploy mobile medical teams into Gaza, if granted access.

Project HOPE is continuing to act in coordination with partners in Israel, Gaza, Egypt, the West Bank, Jordan, and Lebanon to assess how and when we can best support the health and humanitarian needs of impacted communities while remaining committed to the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality, and independence.

For further information, contact [media@projecthope.org](mailto:media@projecthope.org).

