

# Israel-Gaza Conflict

## Situation Report #3

November 8, 2023

*Community members search for survivors following an airstrike in Gaza on October 31, 2023. Photo by Motaz Al Aaraj for Project HOPE, October 2023.*

### Situation Updates

One month after the October 7 Hamas attacks killed over 1,400 people in Israel, airstrikes and other military attacks have claimed the lives of more than 10,000 civilians in Gaza, while 242 people, including children, remain hostages in Gaza after being abducted in Israel.

In Gaza, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) reports that, among the more than 10,000 who have died in the past month, over 4,000 are children, 2,500 are women, and 500 are elderly adults. The World Health Organization estimates that 2,260 people, including 1,270 children, are trapped under rubble.

UNRWA has reported that 89 of its staff members, all of whom are aid workers, have been killed in the past month. UNRWA also reports that at least 1.5 million people have been displaced amid the violence and face a catastrophic lack of access to health care services. On November 7, Project HOPE's photographer on the ground in Gaza was near an airstrike in Rafah and used his car to

### Quick Facts

- Since October 7, more than 11,500 people in Israel and Gaza have died, the majority of whom are civilians.
- An estimated 300,000 Israelis and roughly 1.5 million Palestinians in Gaza have been displaced by the conflict.
- While a limited number of trucks have entered Gaza through the Rafah Crossing, without an urgent increase in the distribution of food, water, medical supplies, medicine, fuel, and sanitation and hygiene supplies, civilian casualties will continue to climb.
- In Gaza, more than 50% of housing structures have been destroyed or damaged; vital pieces of civilian infrastructure, including at least 221 schools, have been damaged; and 40% of hospitals and 71% of primary health facilities are no longer operational.

transport an injured civilian to a nearby hospital as there were no ambulances in the area.

Since October 7, more than 300,000 Israelis have been displaced by the conflict, with several dozen towns near Israel's borders with Gaza and Lebanon facing evacuation due to rocket attacks from Hamas and Hezbollah. Despite the ongoing air offensive into Gaza and Israel's ground incursion into northern Gaza, both groups have continued to launch attacks against Israel. On the afternoon of November 7 alone, 20 rockets were fired into Israel from Lebanon.

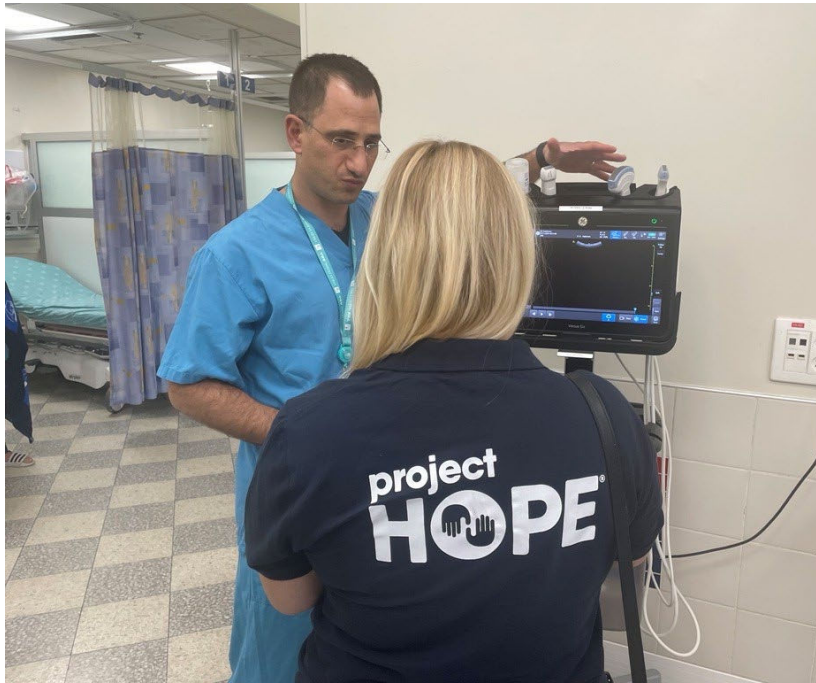
The violence has spread to the West Bank, with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reporting that Israeli forces have killed 147 Palestinians, including 44 children, and Israeli settlers have killed eight Palestinians, including one child.

In Gaza, 40% of hospitals and 71% of primary health facilities are no longer operational as of November 7. In health facilities that are still operational, health workers and those in need of health services are enduring severe shortages of medicine, medical supplies, fuel, and staffing, with doctors performing surgery without anesthesia, health workers working around the clock for almost a month straight, and patients lining the hallways with no certainty that the supplies or medicines needed to treat them will be available.

Cancer treatment is no longer available because of fuel shortages, people living with diabetes are at severe risk of running out of the insulin that keeps them alive, at least 130 premature newborns reliant on incubators are in hospitals that may run out of fuel, and there are at least 50,000 pregnant women without reliable access to care.

Before the October 7 attacks, approximately 400 aid trucks entered Gaza each day. In the past month, only 526 trucks total have been allowed to enter Gaza through the Rafah Crossing, far below what is needed to address the widespread and urgent humanitarian needs in Gaza. The distribution of aid into northern Gaza has been limited by Israeli airstrikes and fuel shortages.

In Israel, the Project HOPE team reports that those affected by the October 7 Hamas ground offensive, particularly evacuated communities, need mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), hygiene supplies, and other services for displaced families. In addition, Project HOPE staff have been working 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 OB/GYN wing and an operating room.



*Last week, Project HOPE delivered a mobile ultrasound machine to Shamir Medical Center in Be'er Ya'akov, Israel. November 7, 2023. Photo by Project HOPE staff, November 2023.*

## Project HOPE's Response

As the Israel-Gaza conflict enters its second month and the number of civilian deaths continues to climb at an alarming rate, Project HOPE has deployed staff to the region to address urgent needs and has emergency response personnel in Israel and Egypt working with local authorities, UN agencies, and civil society to coordinate the delivery of aid into both Israel and Gaza.

Project HOPE's team in Israel has delivered hygiene supplies to displaced people now located in and around Jerusalem and has procured additional essentials for several hundred more.

Displaced families need underwear, socks, clothing, shampoo, deodorant, bedsheets, towels, and other essential items after fleeing their homes, with some families rebuilding their lives after their homes were destroyed in the October 7 Hamas attack.

Project HOPE is also looking to provide mental health and psychosocial support services to displaced families through local partners such as the Yuri Shtern Center and Natal Israel.

Project HOPE is working to support hospitals near Israel's southern border by providing urgently needed medical equipment and supplies and repairing damaged medical structures. The team has delivered a mobile ultrasound machine to Shamir Hospital in Be'er Ya'akov, which will be used to treat patients more effectively. For Barzilai Medical Center, which sustained damage in the October 7 attacks, Project HOPE has procured five clinical defibrillator monitors and is working to support the rehabilitation of the Children's Developmental Institute, which was destroyed in October. Additionally, Project HOPE is working with Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem to support the equipment needs of the Gandel Rehabilitation Center, which will serve those injured in the conflict.

Project HOPE's staff continues to work with local health facilities to determine the highest-priority needs, including medical supplies, equipment, and rehabilitation needs. Our team is coordinating with local NGOs to identify gaps and prioritize needs in primary and mental health across affected areas, including for communities displaced by the ongoing violence. Project HOPE is also coordinating with local government officials to identify further needs across the health and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) sectors.

In Cairo, Project HOPE staff have been working closely with United Nations agencies, the Egyptian Red Crescent, and several partners operating in Gaza to provide both medical and humanitarian relief supplies to those enduring the unimaginable scale of violence in Gaza.



Community members in Gaza line up for hours outside a bakery to get bread during the Israel-Hamas war in October 2023. Photo by Motaz Al Aaraj for Project HOPE, October 2023.

As hopes for a steady humanitarian access through the Rafah Crossing continue, Project HOPE has one Interagency Emergency Health Kit (IEHK), as well as sanitation and hygiene kits, in Cairo ready for onward movement into Gaza. Our team has also prepositioned six more IEHKs, five Trauma and Emergency Surgery Kits (TESKs), and additional hygiene kits for movement into Cairo.

Project HOPE's partner in Jordan, the Jordanian Health Aid Society (JHASi), and our long-time partner SAMU, a Spain-based NGO with an affiliate in Morocco, are both on standby to deploy Mobile Medical Units (MMUs) into Gaza and/or to support surge staffing for injured Gazans in Egypt, as needed and if access permits.

Project HOPE continues 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.

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