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Release of Gaza Humanitarian Access Snapshot #6: Displacement Orders Force Hundreds of Thousands of Gaza's Most Vulnerable to Flee South, While Humanitarian Organizations Struggle to Safely Deliver Aid

RAMALLAH, 09 October, 2024 – A year into the devastating war on Gaza the humanitarian situation in Gaza continues to worsen. Medical supplies, hygiene kits, building supplies, fuel, and more continue to be in rare supply as Israel impedes aid deliveries.

Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) and leading humanitarian agencies outline the delay of aid distribution, safety concerns, forced displacement orders, and logistical constraints in this latest Humanitarian Snapshot.

Following the most recent forced displacement orders, at least 400,000 people in northern Gaza are being forced to flee to overcrowded areas in the south, overwhelming already strained resources like food, water, and medical care. At least 89% of Gaza remains under these forced displacement orders in the face of continued bombardment and heavy rains and floods during the winter season. Multiple organizations reported that they had been forced to cancel or delay planned aid operations to ensure the safety of those involved due to the risk of strikes and unsafe conditions.

Thousands of food and hygiene kits, along with essential shelter items for winter, have been delayed at various procurement points across Egypt and Jordan due to prioritization requirements, security concerns, and logistical constraints. Inside the Gaza Strip, restrictions on fuel have forced

humanitarian agencies to reduce or minimize their movements with some Palestinian NGOs and CSOs reported either not receiving fuel or receiving insufficient quantities.

At least five NGOs report that the psychological toll on both the population and aid workers lead to conditions of anxiety, depression and insomnia, underscoring the urgent need for mental health resources including medications, counseling materials, and therapy tools.

“It was one of the most difficult and saddening moments when I received the news about the death of my mother and son at the shelter gate while I was providing hot meal assistance to the internally displaced people in other shelters,” said one national partner of Islamic Relief.

Palestinian NGOs and CSOs bear the highest risks in carrying out aid operations, as many of their staff are directly affected by the violence, witnessing the devastation inflicted on their own families and communities. Since October 2023, more than 300 aid workers have been killed in Gaza alone – a loss which exceeds the total number of humanitarian aid workers killed in the entire world in any given year across the last twenty years.

“After a year of drastically inadequate aid and humanitarian relief, the global community must respond to the economic and human crisis in Gaza. War continues daily to injure and kill. Children face the worst consequences of the ongoing devastation. We must call on our communities, churches, and governments to bring an immediate end to this man made catastrophe!” - Rev. Dr. Mae Elise Cannon, Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP)

Humanitarian workers should not have to work in such challenging and dangerous conditions: the Israeli government must facilitate safe, unhindered access for all humanitarian assistance in both Gaza and the West Bank and guarantee the safety of all humanitarian actors.

11 September - 9 October 2024

HUMANITARIAN ACCESS SNAPSHOT #6



Occupied Palestinian Territory

INTRODUCTION

Palestinian NGOs and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) are at the forefront of responding to the worsening humanitarian crisis in Gaza. Palestinian organizations face the same blockages incurred by INGOs, but often with intensified challenges such as safety concerns, restricted access, forced displacement orders, and logistical constraints. Since most INGO staff in Gaza are local Palestinians, the shared impact of such obstacles is deeply felt. More significantly, Palestinian NGOs and CSOs bear the highest risks in carrying out aid operations, as many of their staff are directly affected by the violence, witnessing the devastation inflicted on their own families and communities. Despite international humanitarian law's obligation to protect aid workers, since October 2023, more than 300 aid workers have been killed in Gaza alone - a number which exceeds the total amount of humanitarian aid workers killed in the entire world in any year across the last two decades.

Humanitarian Access Snapshot #6 reflects these challenges faced by Palestinian NGOs and CSOs, alongside INGOs, in delivering aid. Some CSOs have requested anonymity and are therefore referenced as 'partners' of INGOs.

The undersigned international organizations want to take a moment to recognize the innumerable and unimaginable challenges and choices our Palestinian humanitarian colleagues, including those working in Palestinian CSOs, have faced over the last 12 months all whilst demonstrating continued commitment to carrying out their humanitarian mandate with an unparalleled level of professionalism, passion, empathy, and determination. Your dedication in the face of such adversity is a testament to Palestinian character and strength. We all have much to learn from you.

SITUATION UPDATE

As of 8 October 2024, over 41,965 Palestinians in Gaza have been killed and 97,590 reported injured, with thousands still missing under almost 39 million tonnes of rubble. Over 90% of the population in Gaza remains internally displaced and in abysmal conditions. At least 89% of Gaza is still under forced displacement orders in the face of continued bombardment and heavy rains and floods, while women and children - who make up the majority of displaced populations - face heightened vulnerabilities including health risks, limited access to reproductive services, and particular exposure to malnutrition.

Please see here OCHA's Humanitarian Access Snapshot for August 2024 and the two most recent Flash Updates on Gaza and the West Bank for additional information.

Most recently, on 6 October 2024, over 400,000 people in northern Gaza are being directed to flee to overcrowded areas in the south, overwhelming already strained resources like food, water, and medical care. These latest forced displacement orders follow similar orders issued in central Gaza on 5 October 2024, affecting thousands of people sheltering there, as well as warnings from December 2023, when a UN expert concluded that orders aimed at permanently altering Gaza's population are in serious violation of international law. The expansion of the Netzarim corridor and isolation of northern Gaza, while ongoing military operations continue to damage infrastructure and supply routes limit humanitarian workers' ability to deliver life-saving assistance. Read more on page 5 from organizations who've been unable to deliver or

negatively impacted by the latest forced displacement orders.

[Read the Report Here](#)

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Formed in 1984, Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) is a coalition of more than 30 national church communions and organizations, including Catholic, Orthodox, Protestant, and Evangelical traditions that works to encourage US policies that actively promote a comprehensive resolution to conflicts in the Middle East with a focus on the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict. CMEP works to mobilize US Christians to embrace a holistic perspective and to be advocates of equality, human rights, security, and justice for Israelis, Palestinians, and all people of the Middle East.

Recent CMEP Statements and Press Releases:

[OCT 7, 2024 Churches for Middle East Peace Commemorates the One Year Anniversary of Oct. 7th](#)

As we commemorate this tragic anniversary, let us renew our commitment to peace, to the end of the occupation, and to a future where all people in the region can live in security, free from fear and repression, and with their full rights and dignity.

[SEP 25, 2024 Churches for Middle East Peace calls on the UNGA Resolution Calling for an End to Israel's Occupation of Palestine to be Upheld](#)

Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) supports last week's United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) resolution, which affirms the International Court of Justice's (ICJ) advisory opinion that calls for Israel to end its decades-long occupation of East Jerusalem, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip within one year. This resolution represents the minimum required for any meaningful steps toward justice, peace, and reconciliation in the region.

[SEP 11, 2024 ICRC Statement about Access to Detainees and Hostages](#)

CMEP joins other leading humanitarian groups in calling on all UN Member States to take urgent steps to protect people deprived of their liberty across the occupied Palestinian territory and Israel.

This includes demanding that the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is granted immediate and unfettered access to all detainees and hostages, to the full extent required by international humanitarian law. Full access must also be granted for independent human rights monitors, legal counsel, and family members.

See all of our [public statements](#) and [press releases](#).

Contact Us

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