

Protection Analysis Update - Summary

Occupied Palestinian Territory (oPt): **Gaza**

September 2022

Context

Protection risks and needs in Gaza continue to be driven by a protracted protection crisis that leave many Palestinians struggling to live their life in dignity. The crisis is characterized by more than 55 years of Israeli military occupation, a military blockade of Gaza since 2008 affecting all aspects of life. It is also marked by violations of international law (IL) and lack of accountability by both Israel and Gaza de facto authorities, unresolved internal Palestinian political divisions and recurrent hostilities between Israel and Palestinian armed groups. Notably, there have been four major escalations in 14 years as well as the Great March of Return 2018-19 – a series of weekly demonstrations at the Gaza-Israel fence that led to the death and injury of thousands of Palestinians.

Protection Risks

The priority protection risks in Gaza are:

- **General protection and human rights concerns**
 - Killing/injuries and excessive force
 - Restrictions on freedom of movement and impediments to access to services, resources, humanitarian assistance, opportunities
 - Infringements on freedom of expression and peaceful assembly
 - Arbitrary arrests, detention and torture or ill-treatment
- **Internal displacement**
 - Active hostilities/ escalations of violence
 - Evictions

People in Need (PiN) Gaza: 988,282

| Children | | Adults | | Over 65 | |
|----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|
| Boys | Girl | Men | Women | Men 65+ | Women 65+ |
| 253,078 | 246,109 | 234,523 | 228,065 | 13,519 | 12,989 |
| 499,187 | | 462,588 | | 26,507 | |

Persons with Disabilities: 148,242

Total PiN: 988,282

Key Figures 2022 (as of 30 June)

12

12 Palestinians injured by ERW, including seven children (since May 2021 escalation)

152

Attacks of fishermen from Gaza,

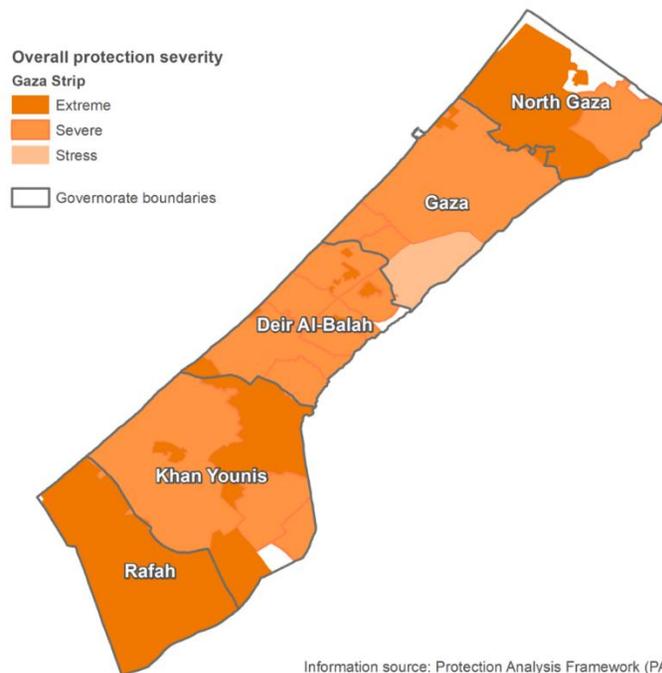
54,000

Palestinians living in critical shelter conditions

- **Psychosocial distress and deterioration in mental health**
 - Conflict-related violence/ prolonged periods of tension
 - Physical assault or abuse
 - Psychological or emotional abuse
- **Child protection threats and grave violations against children**
 - Violence against children in the home, school and community
 - Exploitation and neglect
 - Negative coping mechanisms
- **Specific protection risks for women and girls**
 - Gender-based Violence (GBV) in all its forms
 - Child, early and forced marriage (CEFM)
 - Lack of access to services (including safe shelter)
- **Explosive remnants of War**

GAZA PAU Severity Map – May 2022

Protection Cluster - Overall Gaza Protection severity map



Information source: Protection Analysis Framework (PAF)
Baseline data: OCHA oPt

Objective 1: Increased respect for International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and International Human Rights Law (IHRL) and accountability for violations

Objective 2: Ensuring protection response mechanisms are in place to prevent and mitigate the compounded risks arising from the occupation and conflict related violence, and the impacts of COVID19

- Emergency response minimum preparedness measures both for monitoring and operational protection purposes, focused on mitigating effects of spikes of violence particularly for children and vulnerable groups.
- Monitoring, documentation and advocacy focused on IHL and IHRL violations, conflict-related violence.
- Legal support and consultation targeting those affected by conflict related violence, suspected arbitrary arrests and detention, access restrictions, displacement with priority to children, people affected by access restrictions including health and survivors of GBV.
- MHPSS: Psychological first aid, structured psychosocial support, suicide and parasuicide prevention, supportive parenting programming, clinical mental health and psychosocial services targeting beneficiaries with severe symptoms.
- Child protection: Specialized individual case management, awareness sessions for children and caregivers, family support and child/parent interaction programmes, life-skills programmes, youth-led protection initiatives and programmes aimed reducing negative coping mechanisms.
- GBV: Multi-sectoral face-to-face and remote services, including case management, psychosocial support, cash and voucher assistance, dignity kits, legal aid, emergency medical care and outreach.
- Mine Action: explosives risk assessments, creation of safe passages for humanitarian access, mine clearance, EORE risk education and CPP messaging, especially for at risk groups including children, communities close to ERW .

Advocacy Messages

Protection Risk 1: General Protection and Human Rights risks, in particular deterioration in physical well-being due to violence and conflict

- End all practices that amount to collective punishment: Immediately end the blockade of Gaza, remove hurdles including quotas and restrictions on people and products entering/ exiting Gaza – any restrictions on freedom of movement must be in accordance with international law.
- Both Israeli and Palestinian authorities have a responsibility to calm all violence, both in words and actions, protect civilians and ensure accountability for all violations of international law.
- Israel as the occupying power is responsible for the safety and security of the Palestinian population and must ensure the protection of all Palestinian civilians.
- End culture of impunity and hold duty bearers accountable for all human rights violations - Israel must undertake thorough, independent, impartial and prompt investigations into all instances of possible excessive use of force, and those responsible for any violations must be held to account.
- When use of force is necessary, it must comply fully with international human rights laws: the use of firearm is allowed in extremely limited circumstances, namely in self-defence or defence of others from an imminent threat of death or serious injury, and as a last resort. Even when strictly necessary, force must be used in a manner which minimizes harm and preserves life.
- Allow safe and consistent access to farming and fishing, including refraining from levelling and herbicide spraying, use of lethal force on land and at sea to enforce restrictions, and confiscation of fishing boats.
- All duty bearers must end arbitrary arrests and detention and ensure the rights of detainees are respected, including all fair trial guarantees.

Protection Risk 2: Internal displacement

- Everyone should be able to live in safety and dignity.
- The forcible eviction of Palestinians from their homes in Gaza raises a range of human rights concerns and also heightens their risk of forcible transfer – a grave breach of the fourth Geneva Convention and a war crime.

- Palestinians from Gaza, whether married to spouses from West Bank, East Jerusalem, Israel, or abroad are entitled to live together as one cohesive familial unit, without the constant threat of separation.

Protection Risk 3: Psychosocial distress and deterioration in mental well-being

- Ensure availability of in-person and remote specialized MHPSS services to both children, caregivers, and frontline service providers.
- Prioritize funding for community based MHPSS services.
- Develop remote MHPSS service provision guidance, as well as invest in existing hotlines, considering any emerging escalation or emergency, including pandemics, such as COVID-19
- Provide self-care and supervision services to MHPSS frontline service providers.
Ensure contingency planning and response is well-coordinated among all relevant actors, with clear inter-sectoral pathways.

Protection Risk 4: Child protection threats/ Grave violations against children

- Children are bearing the brunt of these massive hostilities. Everyone has a responsibility to protect children from violence .
- IF must refrain from using violence against children and particular care should be taken to protect children from any form of violence.
- Prioritize funding for the child protection programming for children affected by conflict-related violence”.
- Provide integrated and holistic protection and inter-sectoral support to vulnerable families including cash support.

Protection Risk 5: Specific protection risks facing women and girls

- Establish a national network for the protection of women and girls in times of conflict, to provide specialized, equipped shelters responsive to the needs of women, girls, persons with disabilities, and LGBTQI+ persons in accordance with Security Council Resolution 1325 and international laws and conventions on the protection of women and girls in conflict areas.
- Review of government plans and interventions during an emergency, specifically the Rapid Response Plan for the social sector.

- Endorsement and effective enforcement of the Family Protection Bill, to prevent and combat GBV in all its forms and to protect and ensure that women and girls can fully enjoy their human rights. Immediately repeal discriminatory legislation, in consultation with national GBV actors and civil society, to ensure full and adequate protection of women and girls.
- Ensure **equal and non-discriminatory access** to specialized services for GBV survivors, including WGwDs and LGBTQI+ persons, including sheltering, legal and judicial services guided by GBV Minimum Standards
- Increase the availability and accessibility of life-saving highly specialized services for GBV survivors, including promoting community awareness about how and where to access services.
- Enhance the capacity of service providers to provide high quality GBV protection services.

Protection Risk 6: Explosive remnants of war in Gaza

- Maintain a mine action presence to respond to ERW in and around humanitarian premises to ensure the safe and secure delivery of life-saving and emergency assistance for personnel and beneficiaries during and after conflict.
- Continuous delivery of EORE and CPP messages to the affected communities in Gaza to increase capacity for personal safety before, during, and after conflict.