



Protection Alert

Life is Being Extinguished in Gaza: The Rapid Deterioration in the Protection Environment and Humanitarian Space

25 July 2025

The Global Protection Cluster (GPC) is issuing this Protection Alert in response to the rapid and further deterioration in the protection environment in Gaza, including with the expanded ground offensive in the city of Deir al Balah in Middle Gaza, strikes all over Gaza and widespread starvation. Based on distressing reports from protection partners and the Protection Cluster in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT), this alert seeks to draw attention to the drastic worsening of conditions of civilians in Gaza and for the protection teams working to support them as the possibility of survival is further jeopardized.

People's lives are under threat like never before in Gaza as relentless attacks against civilians continue and humanitarian conditions deteriorate even more rapidly. At the time of this alert, airstrikes and artillery shelling by Israeli Forces continue to hit shelters, IDP sites and civilian infrastructure across the Gaza Strip including North Gaza, Gaza City, Deir al Balah, and Khan Younis, with massive loss of life and injury.ⁱ Our protection partners describe people including women, children and older people collapsing on the street from hunger and dehydration amidst reports of starvation.ⁱⁱ Between 27 May and 21 July, 1,054 Palestinians were killed by Israeli Forces while trying to reach food, including 766 killed in the vicinity of "Gaza Humanitarian Foundation" sites. 288 people have been killed around UN and other aid convoys.ⁱⁱⁱ

The ability for humanitarian and protection partners to operate continues to face massive restrictions^{iv}, as access and administrative impediments imposed by Israel block entry of assistance and essential aid workers into Gaza. Restricted entry of fuel by Israeli is grinding lifesaving services – including generators for hospitals and water trucking – to a halt. Protection teams are forced to walk under active shelling to deliver any critical services and support that is still possible amidst this catastrophic operating environment.

After two years of the systematic destruction of the fabric of life in Gaza^v, the most recent Israeli Forces ground offensive that began in Deir al Balah on 20 July 2025 represents yet another catastrophic phase of the conflict. With approximately 87.8% of Gaza under forced displacement orders or Israeli-imposed no-go zones^{vi}, this offensive is directly targeting the last remaining area for displaced communities in Gaza as well as the community-led humanitarian response itself. Deir al Balah is home to upwards of 80,000^{vii} Palestinians including families that have been displaced from other parts of Gaza, many multiple times. Forced displacement orders cover a further 59 humanitarian sites in Middle Gaza.

Ongoing military operations are hitting humanitarian service points, warehouses, offices and guesthouses. Multiple protection partners have been injured or displaced, and, like the communities

they serve and are part of, many are starving, exhausted and traumatized. The devastating impact of these developments on protection partners, humanitarian space and remaining operational capacity to sustain life in Gaza is enormous.

Along with our colleagues across the humanitarian community, the Protection Cluster stresses the urgent need to protect life in Gaza, with an immediate and lasting ceasefire, the release of hostages, and unimpeded, safe, and sustained humanitarian access and passage of relief items at scale across Gaza.

Third States have the obligation to take concrete steps to ensure that Israel, the occupying power in Gaza, complies with its obligation to ensure that sufficient food, lifesaving necessities and protection are provided to the population.

For more information on the protection situation and response in Gaza, please contact / see:

- Global Protection Cluster: HQPROCLU@unhcr.org
- oPt Protection Cluster: ohchr-protectioncluster-opt@un.org
- [Global Protection Cluster, Gaza Protection Analysis Update, July 2025](#)
- [oPt Protection Cluster / oPt Child Protection AoR / oPt Gender Based Violence AoR / oPt Mine Action AoR / oPt HLP Working Group / oPt Legal Task Force](#)

ⁱ OHCHR, 22 July 2025. [Türk: Israeli attacks on Deir El Balah add more misery to the suffering of Palestinians](#)

ⁱⁱ Joint statement by aid organizations operating in Gaza, 23 July 2025. [As mass starvation spreads across Gaza, our colleagues and those we serve are wasting away.](#)

ⁱⁱⁱ OHCHR, 22 July 2025. [Palestinians in Gaza continue to be killed by starvation or by bullets from the Israeli military while trying to access food.](#)

^{iv} OCHA, Humanitarian Situation Update #307, 23 July 2025. [Humanitarian Situation Update #307 | Gaza Strip | United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs - Occupied Palestinian Territory](#)

^v Global Protection Cluster, Gaza Protection Analysis Update, May 2024. [The Systematic Destruction of the Fabric of Life: A protection update from Gaza](#)

^{vi} OCHA, Humanitarian Situation Update #307, 23 July 2025. [Humanitarian Situation Update #307 | Gaza Strip | United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs - Occupied Palestinian Territory](#)

^{vii} OCHA, Humanitarian Situation Update #307, 23 July 2025. [Humanitarian Situation Update #307 | Gaza Strip | United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs - Occupied Palestinian Territory](#)