



International Organization for Migration (IOM)
The UN Migration Agency

IOM FLASH APPEAL

REGIONAL HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE TO THE CRISIS IN THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY

18 OCT 2023 — 18 APR 2024



DESTRUCTION IN GAZA STRIP
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SITUATION OVERVIEW

On 7 October, Palestinian armed groups in Gaza launched “Operation Al-Aqsa Flood” against Israel, injuring, killing, and capturing many Israeli forces and civilians. In response, the Israeli authorities declared a state of war and began a campaign of heavy bombardments on Gaza – resulting in the injuries and deaths of thousands of Palestinians, out of which more than 65% are women and children.

As of 17 October, the conflict entered its 11th day, marked by continuous airstrikes on the Gaza Strip, causing widespread destruction and mass displacement. In addition, the West Bank and border areas between Israel and Lebanon have also seen escalation since the start of the ongoing hostilities. Human rights organizations have expressed their grave concern over the targeting of civilians and civilian infrastructure by all sides.

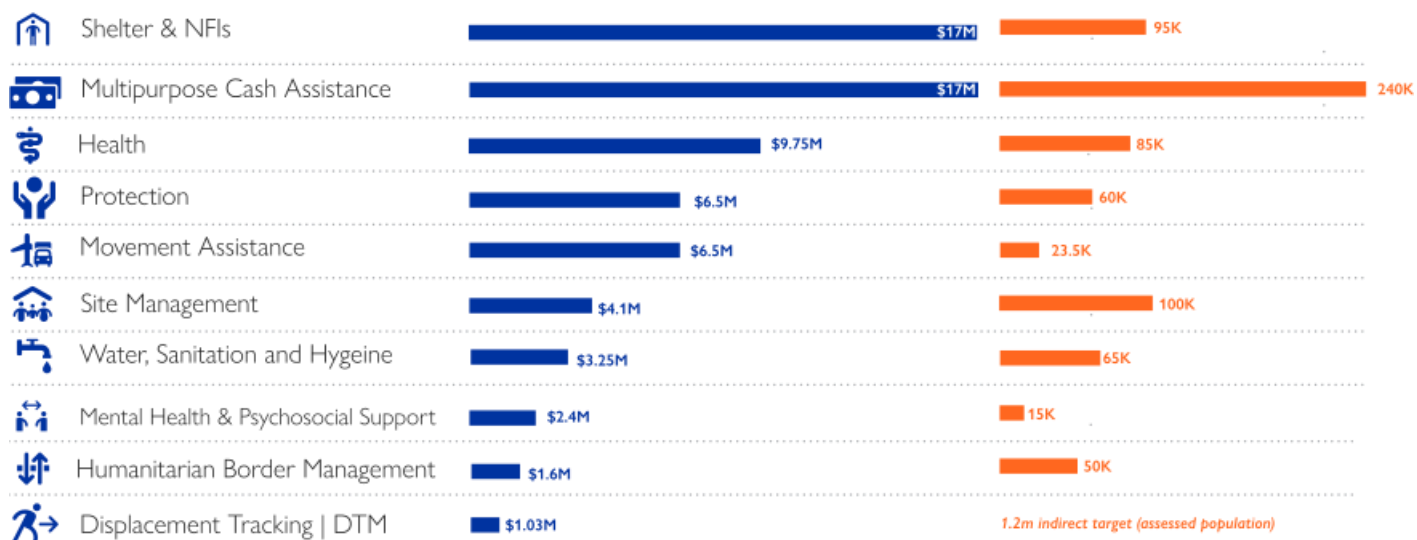
The humanitarian situation in Gaza continues to deteriorate. The number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) has reportedly risen to over 1 million, including over 500,000 in UNRWA designated emergency shelters as of 17 October. There is currently little-to-no access to fuel, electricity, water, and food inside the Gaza Strip, and no humanitarian access from outside. **Humanitarian access into Gaza is critical at this stage**, to ensure lifesaving assistance reaches civilians in need.

IOM joins the UN call for an immediate end to the escalating violence and for a ceasefire to avert a humanitarian catastrophe. All civilians and humanitarian actors must be protected, and all parties must uphold their obligations under international law.

Through this flash appeal, **IOM seeks to mobilize USD 69.13M over the next 6 months to assist 733,500 affected civilians** in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and neighboring countries.

\$69.13M
TOTAL REQUIREMENTS

733.5K
TARGETED PEOPLE



RESPONSE STRATEGY

PILLAR I

Continued preparedness and prepositioning of supplies as well as active monitoring of the situation from a conflict-sensitive and protection lens and where relevant using IOM's displacement tracking tools in Lebanon, Jordan and Egypt.

PILLAR II

Provision of lifesaving assistance to affected populations, including essential goods and basic services, medical supplies, direct health assistance and protection support in neighboring countries and via humanitarian corridors into the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

PILLAR III

Provision of movement assistance and comprehensive support to affected populations, third-country nationals, embassies and other partners with a focus on particularly vulnerable cases.



SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEMS

In the advent of large-scale displacement and recognizing shelter as a basic need, IOM will preposition essential non-food items (NFIs) and shelter materials, ensuring the necessary supplies are readily available to respond rapidly to the evolving needs of displaced populations. IOM response will include integrated site planning and, where necessary, physical adaptation of existing structures to accommodate displaced populations. IOM will provide emergency shelters and vital household and personal items, including cooking, sleeping, clothing, and lighting items.

To address the challenges posed by cold weather, IOM will provide winterization activities, including heating, fuel, winter clothing, and household items. To support market-based solutions and not to adversely impact the local housing market, IOM will prioritize rental support to enable access to housing and alternative accommodation options. Rehabilitation and repairs of existing housing units will also be conducted to accommodate displaced populations, ensuring that these structures are safe and suitable for habitation.

Funding required

\$17,000,000

Target no. of individuals

95,000



IOM GLOBAL STOCKS IN TRANSIT
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IOM AND EGYPTIAN RED CRESCENT
PREPOSITIONING SUPPLIES © IOM 2023



MULTIPURPOSE CASH ASSISTANCE

IOM recognizes Multipurpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) as a crucial intervention aimed at enhancing people's ability to meet their basic needs in a manner that aligns with their preferences. Cash assistance has been proven to be one of the most effective operational modalities in the region, as markets are functional and high quality service providers are in place. IOM has existing agreements with money transfer services providers on the ground across the region – enabling a typical response time of seven days from assessment to delivery.

Funding required

\$17,000,000

Target no. of individuals

240,000



IOM's response to health will focus on immediate direct health assistance addressing urgent health needs of the affected population while strengthening existing health facilities with procurement and distribution of essential medicines, medical supplies, and equipment, to ensure they have the necessary resources to cope with the new influx of patients. IOM will strengthen and expand its support to Primary Health Care including out-reach interventions, community engagement and deployment of mobile teams to provide medical assistance where needed. Special attention will be given to maternal and childcare, with healthcare services tailored to pregnant and lactating women, as well as essential newborn care.

Further, IOM will facilitate referrals for specialized secondary and tertiary healthcare, offering life-saving interventions and emergency healthcare responses, including screening, treatment, and support. The IOM integrated health promotion activities will include outbreak preparedness and response, vaccination and awareness-raising initiatives within displaced communities. IOM is prepared to support hospital facilities in critical areas, providing necessary equipment, trauma kits, Interagency Emergency Health Kits, and other operational support to strengthen and/or expand intensive care and emergency trauma wards. Moreover, IOM will oversee pre-embarkation health checks and medical escorts for assisted voluntary returns and support evacuations, ensuring safety and well-being of third-country nationals.

Funding required

\$9,750,000

Target no. of individuals

85,000

IOM will ensure protection principles are mainstreamed across all interventions to ensure safety and dignity, avoid causing harm and guarantee meaningful access to assistance for all the persons in need, without discrimination.

IOM places a strong emphasis on preventing and responding to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA), with a focus on capacity building for IOM staff, officials, and partners. IOM's established migrant protection programmes allow a swift scale up of existing protection capacity, offering comprehensive specialized services including case management, cash for protection, distribution of dignity kits, individual protection assistance in close partnership with relevant partners. As large-scale displacement with heightened needs and vulnerabilities is anticipated, IOM will expand its current protection assistance and extend IOM's interventions to border areas, drawing on the Organization's protection experience in refugee response as well as assistance to displaced and affected population.

IOM will offer comprehensive case management services and facilitate referrals to specialized organizations for individuals with complex protection needs. Where appropriate and necessary IOM will work to increase protection services availability and community-based protection capacity. Cash assistance will also be provided as a protection tool, empowering affected populations to address their immediate protection needs. This further includes commitment to protecting children affected by the conflict by reuniting separated families, providing emotional support, and ensuring their safety and well-being.

In addition, IOM will address gender-based violence by providing essential dignity kits, counseling, and support to survivors, ensuring their physical and emotional recovery. Acknowledging the consequences of crisis on human trafficking, IOM is dedicated to raising awareness about the risks of trafficking and identifying and assisting victims in line with established referral pathways.

Funding required

\$6,500,000

Target no. of individuals

60,000

IOM movement assistance activities provide a life saving measure for affected populations caught in crisis through the facilitation of transportation, health assistance, accommodation, access to food, and multipurpose cash assistance to meet immediate needs, ensuring their safety and well-being throughout the movement process. IOM will provide comprehensive movement support by air (commercial or charter), land and water along the movement continuum including pre departure, departure, transit and arrival assistance with tailored assistance informed by individual vulnerabilities.

As part of voluntary humanitarian return (VHR) pre departure processes IOM, with the consent of individuals, will support access to necessary travel documentation and exit paperwork through engagement with embassies and consular services as well as relevant line ministries to facilitate their safe movement. As part of pre departure assistance and dependent on needs identified through protection screening, IOM can provide temporary accommodation, access to health services, NFIs and cash assistance. As an integral part of the VHR process, pre-embarkation health checks and medical and operational escorts will be provided based on need for the duration of the return movement.

Furthermore, vulnerable affected populations stranded abroad will be provided with the required assistance in order to access protection mechanisms including resettlement, relevant referral, family reunification or a safe return home.

Funding required

\$6,500,000

Target no. of individuals

23,500



IOM MOVEMENT ASSISTANCE
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 SITE MANAGEMENT

IOM will ensure that displaced populations have access to well-managed, safe and dignified collective displacement sites – where necessary – and tailored to the context and specific needs of the displaced populations. IOM will engage in thorough site mapping and site identification processes, assessing available resources, potential hazards and the existing infrastructure, enabling us to advocate for informed decisions and implement effective site selection. IOM will coordinate and monitor service provision within and across displacement sites, including the involvement of the community through participation and engagement activities and the establishment of site-based feedback mechanisms.

Site improvement works will be undertaken to ensure a safe and dignified living environment for populations residing within displacement sites, and as such will conduct training and skill development programs for local partners and government officials to equip them with the necessary knowledge and skills for effective response and management of communal shelters. This capacity building will enhance the sustainability of the response and empower local stakeholders to take a more active role in supporting the displaced populations.

Funding required

\$4,100,000

Target no. of individuals

100,000



WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE

IOM's planned response in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) will prioritize the provision of safe and reliable supply of water for drinking and domestic purposes. IOM will deliver emergency sanitation assistance through installation of culturally appropriate portable toilets and hand-hygiene facilities, and will focus on environmental sanitation through solid and liquid waste management.

The Global WASH Cluster recognizes that affected populations have been forced to neglect personal hygiene and sanitation needs, with women and children also lacking access to basic hygiene and sanitation items; increasing health complications and outbreaks of preventable disease. IOM will procure and supply hygiene kits with a specific focus on these needs through inclusion of nappies and menstrual hygiene management products in kits. Basic risk communication and community engagement will be undertaken to reduce the risk of water-related and other communicable diseases including cholera, that puts all populations living in inadequate environmental conditions in the region at risk.

Up-front funding is also crucial to support early procurement of core supplies and delivery in an increasingly complex environment. IOM will pre-position WASH relief items in key locations where there are likely to be high needs. In addition to addressing acute needs of affected populations, IOM will provide WASH support to healthcare facilities and points of entry through technical and public health expertise to prevent transmission of disease and prevention of infections.

Funding required

\$3,250,000

Target no. of individuals

65,000



MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

IOM's planned response in Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) is designed to provide comprehensive assistance to the emotional and psychological well-being of affected populations. To this effect, IOM will deploy specialized teams to offer Psychosocial First Aid, providing immediate psychological support to those in distress. This will further include individual and group counseling, ensuring that individuals receive the emotional support they require.

Additionally, IOM will facilitate referrals to specialized mental health care services for individuals with more complex needs. Recognizing the specific needs of youth and children, IOM will organize group activities aimed at providing emotional support and a sense of normalcy during difficult times. IOM will also conduct psychoeducational sessions to raise awareness about mental health and coping strategies, empowering individuals to manage their emotional well-being effectively. Further, IOM will distribute specialized kits to support the unique needs of infants and unaccompanied or separated children, ensuring their well-being and protection.

IOM will integrate MHPSS principles and support into other sectors, recognizing the importance of mental well-being in overall recovery and resilience. Awareness-raising campaigns will be conducted to ensure that affected populations are aware of available MHPSS services, reducing stigma and encouraging individuals to seek support when needed.

IOM will invest in capacity building, training, and coordination of MHPSS services, ensuring that local stakeholders are well-equipped to provide effective mental health and psychosocial support. IOM's strong migrant MHPSS program allows us to quickly scale our MHPSS efforts, and will deploy staff to oversee activities, provide training, and ensure supervision.

Funding required

\$2,400,000

Target no. of individuals

15,000





HUMANITARIAN BORDER MANAGEMENT

Recognizing the potential for cross-border movements, IOM will leverage its extensive experience and long-standing relationships with border forces and immigration authorities to swiftly adapt programming based on requests from authorities. Whether land or sea movements, IOM stands ready to expand its support and provide essential assistance where needed. IOM is well equipped to strengthen an integrated approach to border management, fostering effective coordination and cooperation among border authorities, immigration services, and related stakeholders. In addition, IOM will support border authorities with necessary equipment and resources to facilitate the timely clearance and movement of individuals across borders.

IOM will draw on its experience related to Humanitarian Border Management on the Syrian border, engaging with authorities to understand their specific needs and gaps in border management. Our aim is to provide the necessary support and capacity building to ensure the efficient and organized movement of individuals at border crossings, regardless of how the situation unfolds. IOM's commitment to effective humanitarian border management is rooted in the principles of safety, dignity, and responsiveness, and will closely with authorities and stakeholders to ensure that individuals affected by the conflict can cross borders securely and efficiently, without compromising their well-being.

Funding required

\$1,600,000

Target no. of individuals

50,000



DISPLACEMENT TRACKING

In response to possible displacement and outflows, IOM aims to effectively address the needs of affected populations through the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM). This will include mobility tracking, which employs a systematic tracking mechanism to monitor the movement of displaced individuals, enabling data-driven decision-making for responsive action. Flow monitoring is another pivotal component, which will allow IOM to gather real-time data at border points, thus helping to ensure the safety and well-being of those crossing borders.

IOM will also conduct rapid needs assessments at border crossings and affected areas, focusing on immediate requirements of displaced populations to facilitate the delivery of essential aid and assistance. This will be complemented by regular, concise situation briefs within 24 hours of assessment and comprehensive weekly reports to enhance situational awareness and support evidence-based response planning. IOM will forge close partnerships with inter-agency partners and will coordinate with governments as well as the affected population to ensure the exchange of vital data and foster a unified, well-coordinated response.

Funding required

\$1,030,000

Target no. of individuals

1.2M INDIRECT



IOM DISPLACEMENT AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT
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CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

IOM places **protection at the centre of its work**, recognizing the heightened risk of violence, neglect, deliberate deprivation, discrimination, abuse and exploitation affecting populations on the move and host communities in neighboring countries. As such, all IOM interventions are designed to protect the rights, safety and dignity of affected populations. **Prevention of and response to sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA)** will continue to be mainstreamed throughout IOM's interventions, support and assistance services in neighboring countries.

IOM values **conflict sensitivity** as a fundamental component of its work to address migration-related crises and challenges around the world, and particularly in conflict-affected and fragile contexts. IOM therefore commits to mainstream conflict

sensitivity and protection and enable more agile and flexible operations in the face of a rapidly evolving context, adjustments for which are informed by continuous conflict and protection analysis.

IOM will integrate **Accountability to Affected Populations** approaches throughout its interventions. This means IOM will engage affected communities in planning interventions to respect their dignity, consider priority needs of different groups and provide clear information adapted to the local context for empowered decision-making. IOM will also establish complaint and feedback mechanisms to maintain accountability for the quality and relevance of the assistance provided.

COORDINATION

Interventions carried out through this Flash Appeal are in line and complementary to country level response and contingency plans. IOM is working closely with Governments, Resident Coordinators/Humanitarian Coordinators, UN OCHA, UNRWA and partners to contribute to the ad hoc response and contingency planning in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Egypt, Lebanon and Jordan.

As a member of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), IOM will ensure robust coordination with partner agencies during the implementation of all proposed activities, including UN agencies, international and local organizations, civil society and government counterparts.

In neighboring countries, IOM builds on well-established coordination with national stakeholders including the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Ministries of Defence, Ministries of Interior, Ministries of Health, and the Customs Authorities; municipalities and local governments.

IOM partners with the civil society and in particular Red Crescent, building-up on existing partnerships with local organizations and community groups in affected regions. IOM also benefits from coordination, data and conflict analysis through its Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa, located in Cairo.

IOM CAPACITY

IOM has well established offices in Egypt, Lebanon and Jordan with ongoing humanitarian, migration and development initiatives working in collaboration with Member States. Whilst IOM has no operational presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, West Bank nor Israel, the capacity and presence in the neighboring countries through its existing programming allows IOM to pivot ongoing work and to respond to the crisis, in particular through its relationship with border authorities, UN and civil society partners, including the Red Crescent.

IOM has augmented its presence in all target neighboring countries, supported by multi-thematic expertise including at regional and headquarters levels, as well as has pre-identified multi-sectorial experts through rosters, deployed with the

capacity to quickly respond and scale-up operations. In addition, IOM has the capacity to ensure data gathering, including through its Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), to provide technical assistance to Governments and Embassies, and to deliver movement assistance including health and protection to meet the immediate needs of displaced persons and affected communities, including TCNs.

In the neighbouring countries, IOM thus builds on long-standing presence and expertise in actively responding to crisis and emergencies, with a strong record on the delivery of frontline services to crisis-affected populations, including eventual cross border responses if and when humanitarian corridors open.

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