

# REGIONAL RESPONSE TO THE CRISIS IN OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY

SITUATION REPORT #18 8 FEBRUARY 2024

### 1.70 million

INTERNALLY DISPLACED IN GAZA (as of 5 February)

87,161

INTERNALLY DISPLACED IN LEBANON (as of 6 February)

## **Appeal Status**



REQUESTED: \$69.13 M



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Pipeline Items

#### ITEMS PROCURED AND/OR DELIVERED TO PARTNERS— SEE RESPONSE SECTION BELOW







146,330 Mattresses and Bed Items



Medical Items and Medicines









#### SITUATION OVERVIEW

On 7 October 2023, Palestinian armed groups in Gaza launched "Operation Al-Aqsa Flood", 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 70 per cent are women and children.

As of 5 February, UNRWA estimates that some 75 per cent of Gaza's population (1.7 million out of 2.3 million people) more than half of whom are children, are displaced. They face acute shortages of food, water, shelter and medicine. Intense fighting around Khan Younis continues to drive thousands of people into the southern town of Rafah. Most are living in makeshift structures, tents, or out in the open. Access to basic services remains severely limited—the lack of food, water, fuel, basic items and poor hygiene practices, further exacerbate people's living conditions, amplifying protection and mental health risks, as well as the risks associated to the spread of disease. The health system is on the brink of collapse. As of 30 January, only 13 out of 36 hospitals (36 per cent) in Gaza are functional, but only partially; seven in the north and six in the

south. Long clearance procedures for humanitarian aid trucks at the border, the intense ground operation and fighting, frequent disruption in communication, along with insecurity, blocked roads, and scarcity of fuel, pose significant challenges to humanitarian operations.

In addition to the situation in Gaza, the deteriorating security situation along the border areas between Israel and Lebanon has led to the internal displacement of about 87,161 persons in Southern Lebanon, for which urgent funding is needed to meet the increasing needs.

IOM is urgently appealing for USD 69 million to support its response to the rising critical humanitarian needs of hundreds of thousands of civilians in the occupied Palestinian territories and neighboring countries affected by the ongoing hostilities. IOM's funding received to date is around 9.2 million USD, from a combination of internal funding provided by headquarters as a front-loading effort to kick start operations and meet the most urgent needs, in-kind donations and donor contributions.

#### **IOM RESPONSE**

In Lebanon, daily cross-border clashes between the Israeli Defense Forces and Hezbollah continued in the south, raising concern over a further expansion of the conflict outside the rules of engagement.

As of 8 February 2024, IOM Lebanon's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM)\* has recorded 87,161 internally displaced persons (IDPs), showing a 6 per cent increase since 11 January 2024. Most of these IDPs (80 per cent) are located in five districts out of a total 24 districts hosting IDPs — specifically, Sour, El Nabatieh, Baabda, Beirut, and Saida. The displacement covers 416 locations (villages or neighbourhoods) across 334 cadasters throughout Lebanon, spanning all 23 districts in all eight governorates. Notably, 64 per cent of the total IDPs are located in three districts, Saida, Sour, and El Nabatieh, likely because these districts are close to where the majority of the IDPs are displaced from. Around 80 per cent of IDPs are currently living with host families, while 15 per cent have opted for rental housing. Around 1 per cent are housed in Collective Shelters, another 4 per cent have relocated to their secondary residences. The number of collective sites of individuals displaced by the conflict stands at 18.

As lead agency for Site Coordination, IOM is finalizing the Shelter and Site Management Guidance Document to address remaining gaps, define key activities and funding requirements for a 140,000 displaced scenario under the Lebanon Response Plan (LRP). IOM is currently in the process of extending its partnership with SHEILD to provide psychosocial support (PSS) to populations affected by displacement including Lebanese, Syrians, Palestinians, as well as host families. Meanwhile, the PSS sessions are ongoing, with newly formed groups in two identified locations in the South - Masaken and Qana. To date, IOM has reached 4,131 persons.

In Jordan, as part of the Gaza Humanitarian Response and continued support to the Jordanian Royal Medical Services (RMS), IOM Jordan provided a second donation of medical and surgical tools, to be delivered to RMS's field hospitals in Gaza including 787 medical items and surgical equipment. Since the beginning of the crisis, IOM Jordan has been working closely to support RMS's efforts to provide emergency health assistance to Gaza. This donation will be supporting both field hospitals that RMS is operating inside Gaza.

In Egypt, since 25 January, IOM, in partnership with the Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC), has dispatched 35 trucks toward the Rafah border crossing for onward distribution inside Gaza by the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC). This brings the total number of trucks dispatched since October 2023 to 133, 120 of which have crossed into Gaza. The items provided include NFIs, hygiene kits, medical items and tents. Of the most recent 35 trucks, 15 carried IOM hygiene kits (5,500) and 20 carried NFI kits donated by the German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO). These kits contain nylon robes (2,320), tarpaulins (4,640), plastic sheets (2,320), summer blankets (5,600), winter blankets (5,600), mattresses (4,128), mats (1,056), kitchen sets (2,800), jerry cans (10,400), and bathing towels (5,200). During the past two weeks IOM, NRC, and ECHO have undertaken the preparations for a sea cargo shipment through Port Said planned for the end of February, consisting of shelter tool kits and hygiene kits, as well as tarpaulins and jerry cans.

Since November 2023, IOM Egypt supported 721 Third Country Nations (TCNs), family members, and evacuees with various types of assistance including accommodation, land transport, air transport, protection assistance, and/or medical assistance (including medical referrals and fit-to-travel checks) at the request of their respective Embassies.



IOM Jordan meeting with Director of RMS for the delivery of medical and surgical supplies © IOM 2024

\*The DTM Mobility Snapshot is produced jointly with the Lebanese Red Cross (LRC) and the government's Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Unit and is the leading source of displacement data for Lebanon.

