

### 1.75 million

INTERNALLY DISPLACED IN GAZA  
(as of 21 March)

### 90,491

INTERNALLY DISPLACED IN LEBANON  
(as of 19 March)

## Appeal Status



IOM and SHEILD distributing relief items in southern Lebanon © IOM 2024

## HIGHLIGHTS

- On 18 March, the Israeli military launched an operation against Gaza's largest hospital facility, Al-Shifa, where thousands of people were sheltering. WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said in a post on X that "hospitals should never be battlegrounds" and to be "terribly worried" about the situation.
- "Palestinians in Gaza are enduring horrifying levels of hunger and suffering", [said](#) UN Secretary General António Guterres outside the Security Council in New York, describing the IPC report as an "appalling indictment of conditions on the ground for civilians". "This is the highest number of people facing catastrophic hunger ever recorded by the Integrated Food Security Classification system – anywhere."
- Philippe Lazzarini, Commissioner-General of the U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) was denied entry to the Gaza Strip by Israeli authorities who claim that proper procedures had not been followed.
- On 21 March, the United States [submitted](#) a UN resolution before the Security Council that calls for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza in exchange for the return of hostages held by Hamas.
- On 20 March, Israeli diplomats released several statements preemptively rejecting the findings of two inquiries on the role of the UNRWA in the 7 October Hamas attacks on the same the day that the interim findings were submitted to the UN SG António Guterres.

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

The latest large-scale escalation of conflict in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory on 7 October 2023 has led to an unprecedented humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza. Intense Israeli bombardment and ground operations as well as heavy fighting between Israeli forces and Palestinian armed groups continue to be reported across much of the Gaza Strip. As of 18 March, UNRWA estimates that some 75 per cent of Gaza's population (1.75 million out of 2.3 million people) more than half of whom are children, are displaced. 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. Hospitals in Gaza continue to face severe disruptions in providing health care. [On 18 March, the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification \(IPC\) released its latest food security outlook](#)

[and concluded that up to 1.1 million people in Gaza are facing catastrophic levels of food insecurity.](#) The report highlights the fast-deteriorating food security conditions, including a nearly 80 per cent increase in the number of people facing the highest classification of food insecurity since December 2023. Long clearance procedures for humanitarian aid trucks at the border, intense ground operation and fighting, frequent disruption in communication, along with increased insecurity, blocked roads, and scarcity of fuel, continue to pose significant challenges to humanitarian operations.

[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 Territory and neighbouring countries affected by the ongoing hostilities.](#) Your support is critical in our mission to deliver emergency aid to displaced families in Gaza and in surrounding countries impacted by the crisis and hostilities.

## CONTACTS

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## IOM RESPONSE

## LEBANON

90,941 IDPs have been recorded as of 19 March 2024

7,468 individuals reached with multi-sectoral humanitarian assistance

As of 19 March 2024, IOM Lebanon's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM)\* has recorded 90,941 internally displaced persons (IDPs), showing a 0.9 per cent decrease since 12 March 2024. Most of these IDPs are located in five districts out of a total 24 districts hosting IDPs — specifically, Sour, Nabatieh, Baabda, Beirut, and Saida. The displacement covers 439 locations (villages or neighbourhoods) across 359 cadasters throughout Lebanon, spanning 24 districts in all eight governorates. Notably, 60 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 IDPs are displaced from. Around 81 per cent of IDPs are currently living with host families, while 14 per cent are renting their shelters. Around 2 per cent are housed in collective shelters, another 3 per cent have relocated to their secondary residences. The number of collective shelters for people displaced by the conflict stands at 18.

IOM continues to support the Lebanese Government to strengthen emergency preparedness and response capacities in the country. During the past two weeks, IOM Site Coordination has been actively engaged in Inter-Sector Coordination Group meetings at both national and sub-national levels, in Shelter Working Group meetings, and conducted one-on-one sessions with site coordination partners to discuss response plans. Additionally, the Site Coordination team participated in a meeting with the Lebanon Humanitarian Fund (LHF) to discuss strategic priorities under Site Coordination for the forthcoming Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and LHF allocations.

IOM, through its implementing partner SHEILD, continues to respond to the emergency in southern Lebanon by distributing core relief items to IDPs. Between 7 to 19 March 2024, IOM and SHEILD conducted multiple distributions across three locations in Saida district and five locations in El Nabatieh district. A total of 638 individuals received assistance. In addition, IOM and SHEILD continue to implement protection activities including Phyco-Social Support sessions, recreational activities, and case management to IDPs and host communities in Sour and Nabatieh.

## JORDAN

Handover of two large generators and ten climate control systems to JAF-RMS on behalf of and in coordination with Direct Relief

IOM handed over two large generators and ten climate control (air

conditioners) systems to the Jordanian Armed Forces (JAF) - Royal Medical Services (RMS), on behalf of the NGO Direct Relief, to further equip the two additional field hospital in Gaza. This equipment was donated as part of IOM's contribution to ensure optimal operational conditions for surgical and pharmaceutical facilities, aiming at the overall strengthening of the already existing RMS capacity within Gaza. As of 21 March, this equipment has been delivered to the RMS headquarters, and will be deployed in the upcoming days to the Zarqa RMS warehouses.

## EGYPT

741 Third Country Nationals and family members supported

30,000 blankets were loaded onto 13 trucks enroute to the Gaza

1 Oxfam Cargo flight received at Al Arish airport

Since November 2023, IOM Egypt supported 741 Third Country Nationals (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.

Since 6 March, IOM locally procured 33,000 blankets which were loaded onto 13 trucks and are enroute to Gaza in coordination with the Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC) and the Palestinian Red Crescent (PRC). IOM, in partnership with the Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC), has received one cargo flight on behalf of Oxfam consisting of 15 water bladders and spare parts. The items were loaded on one truck and are being inspected by ERC before being transported to Gaza. IOM is also supporting the palletization and transportation of 8,000 hygiene kits procured by the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)—also set to be delivered to Gaza. To date, a total number of 160 out of 190 trucks have crossed into Gaza, however, the increasing difficulty in delivering humanitarian aid is severely affecting operations to serve those most in need.



Arrival of Oxfam cargo flight to Al Arish © IOM 2024

## DONORS:



\*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.