

Alert note

Palestine Crisis 20/05/2026

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Forum: ACT Palestine Forum

Type of emergency: Large scale emergency

Funding Survey

If the forum indicates a plan to launch an appeal, we request funding members to please fill out this [survey form](#) which will help the **Emergency Steering Committee** assess the funding environment for this response. Please respond to this survey *within 24 hours of Alert publication*.

1. The nature of the emergency

The occupied Palestinian territory is facing a continuing, large-scale, complex humanitarian emergency driven by the ongoing consequences of the war in Gaza since 7 October 2023, the destruction of civilian infrastructure, mass displacement and the sharp deterioration of protection conditions across the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. Although the October 2025 ceasefire and subsequent political arrangements created some space for humanitarian operations and early recovery planning, repeated breaches of the ceasefire and continued Israeli attacks on Gaza have placed civilians at the centre of ongoing violence, resulting in further casualties, displacement, and destruction.¹ In Gaza, the humanitarian impact has been particularly severe on women and children. Since October 2023, more than 73,000 Palestinians have been killed and over 170,000 injured, with children accounting for an estimated one-third of fatalities.² Children and women also constitute a significant proportion of the injured, including a high burden of life-altering trauma. Approximately 1.4 million people remain displaced.³

In the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, over 1,100 Palestinians have been killed and more than 11,000 injured since October 2023, with children among those killed and heavily affected by injuries, displacement, and protection risks linked to ongoing military operations, settler violence, and demolitions.⁴

2. The impact and scale of the emergency (please include your source of information with links if possible)

The occupied Palestinian territory continues to face a **large-scale humanitarian emergency** requiring an ACT Appeal and coordinated Forum response. The crisis affects Gaza, the West Bank, and East Jerusalem simultaneously, with catastrophic humanitarian, protection, economic, health, psychosocial, and developmental consequences.

For the Gaza Strip, the war affects the entire territory including North Gaza, Gaza City, Deir al-Balah, Khan Younis, and Rafah. According to OCHA and UNOSAT assessments, approximately 1.4 million people remain displaced, the majority living in overcrowded shelters and makeshift sites across all governorates. In addition, around 81% of structures across Gaza are reported damaged or destroyed, with particularly severe destruction in North Gaza and Gaza City, and extensive damage across Khan Younis and Rafah. Nearly the entire population is affected by acute food insecurity, malnutrition risks, loss of livelihoods, and collapse of basic services. The crisis has resulted in widespread destruction of homes, hospitals, schools, water systems, and civilian infrastructure, leaving families facing overcrowding, lack of clean water, food shortages, interrupted education, psychosocial distress, and sustained dependency on humanitarian assistance. Over 2.2 million people face high levels of acute food insecurity, while the

¹ Israel steps up attacks on Gaza since Iran truce, as military says Hamas rearming | Reuters

<https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/israel-steps-up-attacks-gaza-since-iran-truce-military-says-hamas-rearming-2026-05-13/?utm>

² Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in the Gaza Strip (South Africa v. Israel) -

<https://www.icj-cij.org/index.php/node/203453?utm>

³ OCHA - Humanitarian Situation Report: 1 May 2026 <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/humanitarian-situation-report-1-may-2026>

⁴ OCHA - Humanitarian Situation Report: 1 May 2026 <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/humanitarian-situation-report-1-may-2026>

health system remains critically weakened and unable to meet overwhelming needs, with access constraints and insecurity severely limiting humanitarian response.⁵

In the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, the humanitarian situation continues to deteriorate due to ongoing military operations, settler violence, movement restrictions, demolitions, and forced displacement. The most affected areas include refugee camps, Area C communities, Bedouin communities, and locations near settlements and the Separation Barrier, where access to services and livelihoods is increasingly constrained. Palestinians continue to face protection risks, casualties, injuries, and displacement linked to repeated escalations and home demolitions, alongside severe restrictions on movement, land access, employment, health care, and education. Women, children, older persons, persons with disabilities, and vulnerable households are among the most affected groups. Across the occupied Palestinian territory, OCHA humanitarian planning frameworks indicate that around 3 million people require humanitarian assistance in 2026, reflecting the scale and protracted nature of the crisis, with risks of deepening poverty, prolonged displacement, and long-term deterioration in protection and human rights conditions if the situation continues without sustained intervention.

3. Local and national capacity

ACT Palestine Forum members and the requesting members FCA, HEKS/EPER, EJ-YMCA, CA, ELCJHL, and LWF continue to work through long-standing Palestinian and Israeli partner organizations with deep community presence across Gaza, the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and Bedouin communities in Al-Naqab. These partners are embedded in affected communities and provide the Forum with a critical operational advantage, enabling access, trust, and continuity of response under highly restricted and volatile conditions.

In Gaza, members work through established national and community-based structures with strong operational capacity in key sectors such as shelter, protection, livelihoods, agriculture, psychosocial support, and civil society coordination. The response is anchored in functioning local systems and field-based networks that support service delivery through staff presence, community committees in displacement sites, and decentralized response mechanisms.

In the West Bank and East Jerusalem, partners focus on protection, education in emergencies, legal assistance, youth engagement, and psychosocial support in marginalized and high-risk communities. In Al-Naqab, partner interventions strengthen resilience in Bedouin communities through locally managed emergency response structures in unrecognized villages.

Operational access in Gaza remains dependent on coordination with Israeli authorities and engagement through the UN-led cluster system. APF members actively participate across key clusters and working groups. Members also engage in broader coordination platforms such as AIDA and Palestinian NGO networks to strengthen joint advocacy, information sharing, and operational coherence across the response. However, response capacity remains severely constrained by access restrictions, the scale and protracted nature of the crisis, and significant funding gaps limiting effective coverage of needs.

4. Key needs and gaps

The ACT Palestine Forum is responding to the Gaza and Palestine crisis through its members FCA, HEKS/EPER, EJ-YMCA, CA, ELCJHL, LWF. These members have been active in Gaza and the West Bank for many years and have been operating through local members since the onset of the 2023 Gaza war. The PSE 231 appeal has proven the capacity of the members to operate in the world's most challenging humanitarian crises. The Forum's added value is the integration of life-saving response, early recovery, and rights-based protection under one coordinated framework. Over 1 million people in Gaza need emergency shelter assistance per OCHA.⁶ Food insecurity in Gaza has reached catastrophic levels, with severe shortages of food, limited humanitarian access, and the collapse of local food production systems placing civilians at heightened risk of hunger and malnutrition, particularly children, pregnant women, older persons, and people with chronic illnesses. At the same time, livelihoods across Gaza have largely collapsed, with widespread unemployment and growing dependency on humanitarian assistance.

According to the Gaza Community Mental Health Programme (GCMHP), over 99 percent of IDPs exhibit symptoms of depression or anxiety, 67.8 percent show PTSD symptoms, and 84.5 percent of the population overall reports severe psychological distress, particularly among women and children. MHPSS services remain critically underfunded relative to caseload. In the West Bank, demolitions, settler violence, and movement restrictions continue to drive

⁵ Report: Gaza Strip Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment - European Union, United Nations and World Bank - Question of Palestine <https://www.un.org/unispal/document/report-gaza-strip-rapid-damage-20apr26/>

⁶ REPORTED IMPACT SNAPSHOT | GAZA STRIP - OCHA oPt [Gaza Reported Impact Snapshot 03 December 2025 final](#)

protection caseload, with the East Jerusalem periphery and Bedouin communities particularly affected. Strategic litigation, planning-related protection, and protective presence are all needed alongside humanitarian delivery.

Over 625,000 students in Gaza have lost a year of learning, and an additional 45,000 first graders face an uncertain future. Most schools have been damaged, destroyed, or repurposed as shelters. In the West Bank, schools face intermittent closures and increased reliance on remote and hybrid learning.

Please indicate whether you are considering:

	Indicate your intention with an X below
Rapid Response Fund (<i>intended for small and medium scale emergencies</i>)	
Appeal (<i>intended for large scale emergencies</i>)	X

If you indicate an intention to launch an appeal, the secretariat will activate an Emergency Steering Committee meeting within two working days on receipt of this alert.

5. Forum Capacity and members intention to respond

ACT Member	Geographical focus	Sectors of expertise and experience
Lutheran World Federation, (LWF/AVH)	Gaza, Al-Ahli Arab Hospital, northern Gaza, plus AVH East Jerusalem referral support	Health, oncology and chemotherapy, cancer diagnostics and pathology, essential surgical services, health systems support including energy through the Augusta Victoria Hospital)
Swiss Church Aid, (HEKS/EPER)	Gaza, primarily Gaza City and Deir al-Balah. West Bank including East Jerusalem and periphery, marginalised communities and Bedouin areas. Israel and Al-Naqab Bedouin unrecognised villages	Emergency shelter and NFI, multi-purpose cash assistance, food security and livelihoods including emergency agriculture and cash for work, MHPSS, protection including planning-related protection, humanitarian advocacy, women-led smallholder farming and seed sovereignty, women-managed Emergency Supply Rooms in Israel and Al-Naqab
Christian Aid (CA)	Gaza Strip, primarily Khan Younis, Deir el Balah, Gaza City. Israel and Naqab unrecognised villages	Community-led approaches and survivor and community-led response (sclr), informal education and PFA, legal aid and advocacy, faith-based public advocacy
Finn Church Aid (FCA)	Gaza and West Bank, with emphasis on Ramallah and northern governorates (Jenin, Nablus, Tulkarm)	Education in Emergencies, Temporary Learning Spaces, inclusive, blended and distance learning, teacher capacity development, child protection and MHPSS, disability inclusion, caregiver awareness and community engagement
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, (ELCJHL)	Bethlehem, Beit Jala, Beit Sahour, East Jerusalem, Ramallah	Psychosocial support, scholarships for schools, humanitarian assistance and MPCA, livelihoods-sensitive PSS
East Jerusalem Young Men's Christian Association (EJ-YMCA)	Hebron and Bethlehem governorates, Area C and Area B, refugee camps	Protection, preparedness and mitigation, community-led programming via PVCA-trained Community Protection Groups, community cash grants, MPCA for vulnerable women

Potential responses

Based on the initial needs assessment, and the developed forum EPRP, the ACT Palestine Forum plans a multi-sector emergency and early recovery response across Gaza, the West Bank including East Jerusalem, and Bedouin communities in Israel and Al-Naqab. During the 24-month response period, a total of 162,986 participants will be targeted across the different sectors by all requesting partners.